MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

30 SEPTEMBER 1985

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi forces crushed an Iranian offensive in the northern sector early 30 September, an Iraqi military spokesman cited by Voice of the Masses radio announced. Monitored Iranian media have not been observed to report on the battle. Meanwhile, Iraqi warplanes hit a "large maritime target" near the Iranian coast 30 September after launching further strikes against Khark Island 27-30 September, the Iraqi military command reported in communiques and statements broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. Iraqi air defenses intercepted two Iranian planes that attempted to penetrate the Al-Basra area 29 September, shooting down an F-4 and forcing the other Iranian plane to flee before it reached its target, according to an Iraqi communique. An Iranian joint staff command communique cited by IRNA acknowledged the loss of an Iranian plane inside Iraq due to "technical difficulties" but maintained that this occurred after the Iranian aircraft had bombed a power station north of Basra, inflicting "considerable damage."

The military developments over the weekend followed another warning by Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i, broadcast by Tehran radio 27 September, of Iran's intention to prohibit the export of oil and import of goods by all Persian Gulf countries if Iran finds itself unable to export oil. Contending that Iraq may be using bases of some other Gulf states for its attacks on Khark Island, Khamene'i gave a "friendly warning" to the Gulf states not to be "deceived" by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The Manama *GULF DAILY NEWS* cited an Iranian National Oil Corporation (INOC) spokesman's statement that INOC is still exporting oil from Khark but at a reduced capacity. On the other hand, the London *LLOYD'S LIST* said that exports from Khark have come to a complete halt, according to INA. At a 29 September Iranian Cabinet session, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi stressed that Iran is taking action to make its oil export system "much more invulnerable in the shortest time," IRNA reported. In another development, IRNA noted that the Iranian Navy released three cargo ships it seized for inspection in the Gulf over the weekend.

An Iranian military source cited by IRNA denied the London *OBSERVER's "fabricated" report that Iran has purchased* surface-to-surface missiles from the PRC. Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) commander Mohsen Rezai'e announced earlier in an interview with *ETTELA'AT* that the IRGC has an SS missile unit and will soon make its first SAM site operational, IRNA reported, and he also maintained that the IRGC is manufacturing "sophisticated" antitank missiles.

Sudan

Khartoum was calm in the wake of the city commissioner's announcement of a curfew in the capital 28 September, SUNA reported. The curfew was imposed after gunfire was heard at an Army barracks in northern Khartoum early that day, according to the agency, which noted rumors that soldiers of southern origin were attempting to seize arms. The curfew order, broadcast by Omdurman radio, provides for a 7-hour curfew each night until further notice. The radio also carried a statement by Prime Minister al-Jazuli Daf'allah asserting that the mutiny on 26 September was a foreign-backed and "racist" plot aimed at seizing power and assassinating the Transitional Military Council (TMC) and the government. The plotters aimed to incite unrest through a publication released in the name of the "African Organization for the Liberation of the South," he said, and their leaders intended to arrive in an aircraft supplied by a foreign state. In related statements cited by SUNA, the defense minister disclosed that the authorities have arrested 50 of the 52 soldiers who participated in the conspiracy, and he also maintained that Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) leader John Garang was one of the leaders who planned to take power if the plot succeeded. Other Sudanese officials revealed that the authorities have arrested over 70 civilians in connection with the plot, including Sudanese National Party leader Philip 'Abbas Ghabbush, according to SUNA.

Reacting to the events in Khartoum, a SPLA High Command statement broadcast by the clandestine SPLA radio deplored the TMC's description of the failed coup attempt as racial, asserting that this is an attempt to inflame racial and religious feelings, and it warned that the SPLA has "no choice" but to intensify the war against the Khartoum authorities.

JANA reported that Libya's Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi held a telephone conversation with TMC Chairman General 'Abd al-Rahman Muhammad Siwar al-Dhahab 28 September, while MENA noted that after telephoning Siwar al-Dhahab the following day, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak stressed Egypt's willingness to help maintain Sudan's national security and to support Sudan in confronting foreign interference or aggression.

King Husayn's UNGA Speech; Israeli Reaction

"We are ready to negotiate with Israel under suitable, acceptable supervision, directly and as soon as possible, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 and 338," Jordan's King Husayn declared during his 27 September UN General Assembly speech, adding that an international conference organized by the UN Secretary General would be the appropriate framework for such talks, which should lead to the implementation of resolution 242 and to the solution of all aspects of the Palestine question. Husayn also condemned terrorism in his speech, which was broadcast by Amman radio, but he rejected "deceptive attempts by some parties" to put terrorism on an equal footing with national liberation movements and the right to resist occupation.

In response, Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres told the Israeli Cabinet that King Husayn's address will be judged by its results, according to a cabinet communique carried by IDF radio 29 September, and he stressed that one positive outcome of Husayn's speech would be direct, unconditional negotiations between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Peres reaffirmed that Israel does not regard the PLO as a partner to negotiations, the communique added, and he criticized Husayn's distinction between terrorism and national liberation movements. The communique containing this view of Husayn's speech was endorsed by all cabinet ministers except 'Ezer Weizman, who said it was insufficient and did not go far enough, the radio disclosed. However, Likud ministers reacted less favorably to Husayn's remarks than the Alignment, Jerusalem radio noted, and while Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said he found nothing positive in the speech, Peres described the king's speech as "progressive, intelligent, and positive," stressing that this was Husayn's first public call for direct talks with Israel without prior conditions and criticizing those Israeli leaders who were quick to reject Husayn's remarks.

Israel: Security Problems and the Palestinians

A bomb exploded in Haifa 29 September, wounding seven people, IDF radio announced. An Arab youth was killed in the West Bank town of Hebron the previous day when a hand grenade thrown at an IDF patrol exploded, according to Jerusalem radio. Meanwhile, both the "Force 17" and the DFLP claimed responsibility for the 26 September attack on a bus near Halhul, Radio Monte Carlo noted. In another development, a Cyprus Government spokesman cited by Nicosia radio announced that Cyprus has decided not to accede to Israel's request for the extradition of three men arrested in connection with the recent murder of three Israelis in Larnaca marina. The spokesman confirmed that one of the prisoners is British.

Egypt

The U.S. Administration "really was more understanding this time" about the Middle East peace process and bilateral relations, President Mubarak said in comments reported by MENA following a working luncheon in New York with King Husayn of Jordan. Mubarak said he briefed Husayn on his talks with President Ronald Reagan during his two visits to Washington.

Lebanon

U.S. Hostages — The six U.S. hostages in Lebanon will "send messages from a press conference," an anonymous caller on behalf of the Islamic Jihad group told a press agency in a statement reported by AFP. The Jihad spokesman did not say when the press conference will be held, and he warned that the United States will bear "entire responsibility" for the fate of the hostages if it does not meet "certain conditions" for the hostages' release within a deadline specified by the Jihad group.

Fighting in Tripoli, Beirut — Fierce battles continued in the approaches to Tripoli 29-30 September and Arab Democratic Party leader 'Ali 'Id announced that his men have captured the Al-Qubbah area of the city, Beirut radio reported. Gunmen from the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, the Communist Party, and other pro-Syrian leftist parties are supporting the Arab Democratic Party's offensive, while the Islamic Unification Movement (IUM) is backed by Palestinian gunmen, according to Voice of Lebanon radio, which said the fresh casualties in Tripoli over the weekend brought the total to 300 dead and 800 wounded. The attack on IUM positions in the city followed a Beirut radio report that Syrian officials had decided to end their mediation efforts because of the IUM's rejection of negotiations and had signalled their intention to ask pro-Syrian militias to attack the IUM. A caller for the Islamic Jihad group told a news agency that his group will carry out "violent" reprisals in Beirut and Damascus unless the pro-Syrian forces halt their assault on Tripoli, AFP noted.

Fighting also erupted across the combat lines in and around Beirut 28 September, resulting in 32 dead and 87 wounded, Beirut radio reported.

Saudi Arabia

Defense and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan expressed the Kingdom's continuing interest in the purchase of F-15 aircraft during a 28 September press conference carried by SPA, asserting that Saudi Arabia will buy F-15's and other U.S. weapons it needs if and when the United States is able to sell such equipment. However, the Kingdom will seek arms elsewhere if its requests for arms purchases are refused, he said, and the Saudis are still "carefully considering" buying Mirage 2000 aircraft from France.

Tunisia-Libya

Tunisia's decision to sever diplomatic relations with Libya is like "divorce," Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi told KUNA, but he added that the Libyan people are "absolved" from the behavior of their regime. A Libyan Foreign Liaison Bureau statement carried by Tripoli radio regretted the Tunisian move but said the Foreign Liaison committee "can do nothing in this respect" until the issue is put before the People's Congresses. Meanwhile, Libyan Foreign Liaison Secretary 'Ali 'abd al-Salam al-Turayki said in remarks reported by KUNA that Tunisia's decision to break relations is "illegitimate and unjustified," adding that he believes relations will be normalized again. In a related development, sources cited by JANA said Tunisia closed its borders with Libya 28 September.

Arriving in Algiers, Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali thanked Algeria for its "clear stance of solidarity" regarding the crisis with Libya, Tunis radio disclosed.

Western Sahara-Spain

The Polisario Front freed the six fishermen it captured after attacking a Spanish trawler 20 September, Madrid radio announced. A Polisario Executive Committee member cited by Algiers radio warned that the presence of Spanish naval patrols near the Saharan coast is a "provocation." Meanwhile, Spain decided to close all Polisario Front offices on its territory and expel all Polisario members, according to Madrid radio.

Iran

Replying to a letter from Majlis deputies seeking guidance on the next government, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni said in a message broadcast by Tehran radio that Prime Minister Musavi's government has been "successful" considering the "highly complex" situation in the country and a change of government is not advisable "at present."

Afghanistan

The DRA Armed Forces chief of staff was killed when his vehicle ran over a mine in Khowst, Karachi radio claimed. Monitored Afghan media have not been observed to report the chief of staff's death. Kabul radio reported that DRA forces destroyed rebel "nests" and "crushed" more than 200 Pakistani militiamen in Khowst.

Noting that certain government departments are staffed by "lazy elements" and "time wasters," President Babrak Karmal stressed in a speech to the Revolutionary Council broadcast by Kabul radio that it is "high time" the DRA established order and discipline in government.

FBIS

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Karmal, Keshtmand Address Revolutionary Council

Karmal Address

LD281457 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto and Dari 1630 GMT 27 Sep 85

[Concluding speech by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, at the first regular session of the Revolutionary Council for the year 1364 (21 March 1985 to 20 March 1986) — recorded]

[Excerpts] Esteemed members of the Revolutionary Council:

I think today we had an open and very advantageous discussion about the work improvement within the apparatus or the leadership organ of the government. We decided to reorganize work in the ministries, state committees, and general departments. Our duty is to create a simple, cheap, flexible, initiating, and active organism which will have the ability and capacity to direct government affairs.

Regrettably, we have departments which have been transformed into places of collections of lazy elements, time wasters, and ambitious position worshipers having weak morals and character. It is high time that we established order and necessary discipline in our own home, in our own government.

What does it mean when we say a ministry? Ministries, or independent departments or state committees are the highest headquarters of a vast and specific area, the vast area of industry and education and training, culture, defense, state security, internal affairs, justice, and other areas.

Do you know that the military headquarters prepares operational charts? Every morning they make changes to these charts, which (?reflect) changes in the situation on the battlefield. A commander's quick look at a chart is sufficient for him to understand the depth of the situation and to make an operational and timely decision. Similarly, at any time of day of night a minister or a head of a state committee must carefully,sympathetically, and with a feeling of responsibility, perceive, recognize and understand the state of affairs in his field of work.

How can an official who speeds in a car toward a ministry every morning; spends all day alone in his office making various telephone calls; does not trouble himself to make a journey to the provinces, accept responsibility, or visit enterprises or workers collectives; or familiarizes themselves with the work of the people over whom he has charge; or make decisions on matters for which he is responsible; [words indistinct] recognize difficulties and be successful in his role of skillful and successful leadership by solving problems, particularly under the present circumstances and conditions of the revolution and undeclared war?

I mentioned this point in order to emphasize that if we seriously intend to improve leadership, then, as a first step each official must improve his own work. We are living in a very difficult period for the destiny of the homeland and our revolution.

(?There are) employees in the administrative apparatus who take no care; their lives are not in danger; they have particular problems and difficulties. Despite their privileges, they drown in the quagmire of bureaucracy; they are extravagant, ambitious, and indifferent to the simple and toiling people, to the revolution, people, and homeland.

I will not talk about those who plunder the wealth of the government or public property, take bribes, gather vast wealth from government accounts, make personal or family misuse of government property — sooner or later they will be tried by the people's court.

For this reason, it is our duty [word indistinct] to establish the machinery for government leadership urgently and immediately, and in a suitable manner. We should force this machinery to feel a profound responsibility to work, sweat in the field of its work for the destiny of the revolution, the destiny of the homeland, and thepeople.

Each employee of the government leadership organ, from the level of a minister to an ordinary employee, knows and understands very well that the position he holds in the machinery of government administration has not been inherited. All the authority he has was given him at the price of the blood of thousands of our sons.

Government in the hands of toilers is a means for constructing a democratic and new society. In such a state, the role of the leadership of government machinery is extraordinarily important. In order to enhance the role of the government machinery ofadministration and to economize on the cost of this machinery, we should reduce it to the necessary minimum. The bureaucratic elements [passage indistinct] and by bringing in fresh revolutionary forces from the toilers' ranks, we should constantly renew it.

First principle: Only by relying on the cooperation and support of the toilers can the government machinery be improved and perfected, and put at the service of the people

Second principle: The construction of a democratic and new society is only possible by infallible friendship with the people -- all nationalities, tribes, and clans of the country --together with the elimination of inequality, with fraternal unity and respect for their praiseworthy national feelings.

Third principle: The duty of the government is to follow a peaceful, wise, and principled foreign policy and, at the same time,to strengthen the defense capability of the country and enhance the combat ability of the country's armed forces.

Fourth principle: The government, the administrative machinery, and their officials and employees must not even for a second forget the serious observance of the principle of party leadership, otherwise the government, the government administration, and the machinery of the government administration will be altered into a mean instrument for the people's torture.

Fifth principle: The machinery of government administration must accomplish its duties under the leadership of the party and

in close link with the people. We should fully realize the great value of the practical experience of the people.

Sixth principle: Compromising with lawlessness; hypocrisy; inconsistency in words and action; nonobservance of the revolutionary legality; negligence; laziness; recklessness; lack of discipline; inability; lack of personality; [words indistinct]; arrogance; ambitious expectations; material, personal,or family misuse of a party or government position; harsh, careless,or degrading attitudes toward the people; drowning in moral corruption — all this is wicked deception eventually leading to treachery to the party, government, revolution, people, and homeland.

In conclusion, it is necessary to learn the principle of new revolutionary training, new revolutionary upbringing, and new revolutionary education, in the manner and work methods of Lenin.

Under these circumstances the leaders, leadership cadres, party and government officials -- as explained in my basic report -- can improve the work of the government apparatus and can be a revolutionary, patriotic, and true servant of the people and homeland. The leadership of the party, the PDPA, with full confidence assures you, comrades and friends, and through you all party and government employees, that this will be so.

Keshtmand Address

LD291423 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 28 Sep 85

[Speech by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers, at the first regular session of the Revolutionary Council for the year 1364 (21 march 1985 to 20 march 1986 — recorded]

[Excerpts] Esteemed Comrade Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council; and esteemed members of the DRA Revolutionary Council; esteemed comrades:

One of the major phases of the policy of the PDPA in the process of the revolutionary transformations in the DRA is the renewal of the structure and improvement of the evolutionary process of the government apparatus. On this basis, at this very moment the major and fundamental chain of the new era government mechanism has been created and is constantly growing in the country.

Timely diagnosis of serious problems, determining the method of their solution, proper direction of the activities of all circles of the administration, and securing their equal coordination — these are the main demands from all ministries, state committees, departments, and other central organs. They should utilize the work results of millions of human beings for the acceleration of economic growth and improvement of the social life of the country.

Since the victory of the new development stage of the April Revolution until the period ending 22 August 1985, the Council of Ministers, either by taking the initiative or acting on the proposals of the ministries and departments, issued in total 2,419 resolutions, 1,717 decisions, and 14,135 writs for the solution of the crucial and immediate issues in various fields of the socioeconomic and cultural life of the country. During 1363 [21 march-20 march 1985] alone and in the first 5 months of 1364 [21 march 1985-20 march 1986], 424 resolutions and 229 decisions were issued in 64 sessions of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers and in 10 full regular sessions of the Council of Ministers. These dealt with the solution of issues relevant to the growth of the national economy, improvement of the living standard of the toilers, improving the activities of the government apparatus, consolidation of the gains of the April Revolution, and restoration and consolidation of revolutionary legality in the country.

Necessary measures are being taken and implemented in the Council of Ministers for the implementation of 199 resolutions of the PDPA Central Committee.

The Soviet Union's assistance, dedicated to supplying sufficient (?consumer) commodities needed by the people through free assistance and through favorable trade, is exceptionally important; and millions people in our country are enjoying the results and products.

The Soviet Union's assistance in the field of training national cadres and in the field of the development of our country's culture, is also of formidable importance.

The Council of Ministers has compiled specific procedures and instructions which will be implemented to better regulate the affairs relevant to the effective utilization of the assistance and fraternal aid of the Soviet Union.

Among the DRA socioeconomic development plans now, political, security, and social complex plans for the provinces, as well as the program for the development of the border provinces — which were arranged and approved in a separate list — are being implemented.

The implementation of these plans and programs will promote the relentless continuation of land and water reforms in the villages, passing broad assistance to the peasants such as distribution of chemical fertilizer; sowing seeds, insecticide, and pesticide free and at subsidized prices; supply of technical services; and creation of agricultural, consumer, and handicraft cooperatives in the villages of the country. Also planned is the creation of the new organs of national sovereignty in the villages on the basis of the implementation of the law of the local organs of the state administration and power, already implemented in Kabul City and in two other provinces, and on the basis of the envisaged plan, to be implemented by the end of the year in a number of other provinces and all cities and capitals of the country's provinces. These will effect the broadening and consolidation of the social pillars of the revolution and government authority in the country.

The government plans are like laws and those in charge of the ministries, departments, and other central organs are individually responsible to the party and government for the imperative implementation of the devised plan.

The Council of Ministers, during the systematic assessment of the circumstances of the implementation of the plans, constantly imposes the duty on ministries, state committees, and departments to better organize the work to remove shortcomings on the way to the implementation of the plans, for the implementation and over-implementation of plan indices, to provide extra resources for the increase of production, effective and more economical utilization of material and financial resources, and serious observance of plan and financial discipline.

As a result of the constant and relentless demands of the Council of Ministers, now a sense of responsibility in the fields of the implementation of the plans has been increased to a great extent and better results have been produced. An assessment of the first quarter of 1364 [21 march 1985 to 20 march 1986] showed this fact.

However, there are still shortcomings and many defects that should be removed in this important field of work.

One of the necessary conditions for the effective work of the leadership apparatus of the ministries, committees, and central departments is the accomplishment of their planned activities concerning the explanation of specific duties, defining the plan executors, and the time limit for its implementation.

However, regrettably there are still many shortcomings in this respect. A number of the central organs do not work on the basis of the prepared plans and there are plenty of negative results in their work.

Here I will mention some examples of the negative results in the work of some of the ministries and departments which have been revealed in the recent sessions of the Council of Ministers while considering the circumstance of the nature of the implementation of the plan in the first quarter of the current year:

The duties which had been put before the revevant organs relating to the improvement of agriculture in the country have not been completely implemented. We can mention the decrease in the fields of sowing various plants, in particular industrial plants, in comparison to the previous year, nonimplementation of the plan for the distribution of chemical fertilizer, agricultural insecticide, improved agricultural and sugar beet seeds, and nonestablishment of a unified department for regulating the activities of the government agriculture sector.

It can also be mentioned that the achieved gains in the field of implementing the irrigation plan, do not yet respond to the actual demands of agricultural development in the country.

In the field of industries, mines, and energy, it should be mentioned that of 17 ministries and departments, 6 ministries or departments have not managed to realize their production plans. The output of some industrial production, such as electric power energy, barite, uncut lapis, vegetable oil, salt, soap, and fruit conserve, is less than the plan.

Necessary use of the technical and economic possibilities of the transport enterprises of the country and their potential has not been made, and the measures taken to reduce the material losses of the government transport enterprise have not been implemented.

ssessing the circumstances of the implementation of the plan during the first quarter of the year, it can be revealed that due to nonutilization of development money by some ministries and departments, work for the construction of a number of projects due to begin during the first quarter of the the year beginning 21 March 1985 has not yet commenced and a number of projects have not been operational on time.

The State Planning Committee, Ministry of Finance, and the State Control Committee [as heard] did not use the necessary influence for the timely competion of this task.

The construction enterprises do not make proper use of the existing potential.

The Ministry of Finance, as a central organ and responsible for the construction of a large proportion of industrial and civil construction, does not use its influence for the completion and timely operation of the development projects, and the raising of the quality of construction products.

In the field of education and training and supply of medical services, there are still noticeable shortcomings.

Absorption of a limited number of children who have reached school age; a lower standard of teaching in schools and in higher and vocational education institutions; weaknesses in political work among the students, teachers, and lecturers are all major defects that should be removed.

Moreover, the issues relevant to shortages of teaching equipment and teachers, limitations in the supply of medical services, and a shortage of medical cadres in the provinces and villages of the country in particular must be solved as soon as possible.

There are still numerous faults in the work of some ministries and departments from the viewpoint of behavior.

The method of work in some of the central apparatus of government organs, has not yet been improved and there are still methods of bureaucracy, formalism, liberalism, of not paying attention to the condition of work and life of the toilers' collectives, hesitation in the accomplishment of allotted duties, and a superficial attitude vis-a-vis crucial and vital duties in the work of some of the leadership organs of the ministries and departments.

Despite serious notification and repeated emphasis at Council of Ministers sessions, still there is no preparedness for the removal of these shortcomings in some of the leadership in the central organs.

In addition to the lack of attention to the presentation of reports with statistics and to the creation of a unified effective system of receiving and giving accounts, nonpresentation of documents on time by some of the ministries, state committees and departments; lack of analysis and careful assessment of issues by them; failure to find ways and means to remove shortcomings and

defects; and the low quality of the documents presented to the Council of Ministers have acted negatively on the process of a timely solution of the issues and problems.

In addition to these, some employers do not struggle decisively against disobedience, law-breaking, misuse of public property, administrative and moral corruption, violation of laws and regulations, and against excuses for nonexecution of work. Any improvement in the method of work of the government apparatus is not possible without removing these defects.

The Council of Ministers has constantly been struggling and working to remove all these shortcomings and sicknesses, and to improve work methods in the government apparatus.

However, it should be mentioned that improvement in the work methods of a government department is a continual process and we should learn the methods and the manner for the effective execution of administrative work for the successful organization of this task and to enhance the level of activities, responsibility, examination,and [word indistinct] and to struggle systematically against every feature of bureaucracy, formalism, position-seekers, and administrative short-sightness.

In conclusion, we can say that our apparatus, despite shortcomings, will improve and this will be one of our victories and important gains.

Once again we can say with confidence that the instructions of our dear comrade, Babrak Karmal, on the improvement of work in the government apparatus, will be practically realized.

Thank You. [applause]

Keshtmand Congratulates USSR'S Ryzhkov
LD300702 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 30 Sep 85

[Text] Kabul, September 29, BAKHTAR — Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the Politburo of the PDPA CC and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA sent a congratulatory message to Moscow on the appointment of Nikolay Ryzhkov, member of the Politburo of the CPSU CC as chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

The message expresses confidence that Nikolay Ryzhkov as the head of the Government of the USSR will play an important role in the construction of communism in the USSR, the development of Afghan-Soviet friendly and unshakable relations and the strenghtening of peace all over the world.

BBC -- Mujahidin Claim Killing Army Staff Chief
BK280115 London BBC World Service in English 0015 GMT 28 Sep 85

[From "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] In Afghanistan, Soviet and Afghan Government troops are sustaining their campaign against rebels in Paktia Province near the Pakistan border. There have been heavy casualties on both sides. In their latest report, the rebels say that the Afghan Army chief of staff, Major General Shahnawaz Thani, was killed when his vehicle ran over a mine. Paktia was the general's homeland. Alex Brodie in Islamabad has the details.

[Begin Brodie recording] It would seem strange for the chief of staff to be personally leading an attack on terrorist strongholds down in Paktia. However, this is explainable. A close observer of events in Afghanistan said that the general was an active commander who liked to lead his men in actual battles and had fought in the Panjsher Valley, Herat, and Qandahar. Also, Paktia is his home province. And a few weeks ago, at the beginning of the government's offensive, the radio station there at Khost is reported to have broadcast that Major General Shahnawaz Thani has come down from Kabul to teach a lesson to the bandits. Guerrilla sources had also earlier reported that he was in charge of the offensive. Two separate guerrilla groups say he was killed at the start of this week's surprise attack southeast of Khowst in the (Kharsin) area. They said he died on Monday or Tuesday when the vehicle in which he was travelling struck a mine. He said up to 18 others died with him. Reports from the Pakistani border town of Miran Shah, which is close to the Paktia border and inhabited by Afghan guerrillas, say that the general's death was announced in the mosque there on Thursday. Guerrilla sources say captured Afghan soldiers also told them that he had been killed. There has, however, been no announcement on Kabul radio. The government offensive in the Khowst area has claimed the lives of three senior guerrilla commanders and caused heavy casualties on both sides. [end recording]

Gandhi Sees Lesson For Sri Lanka in Punjab Poll

BK270945 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Sep 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi has expressed the hope that Sri Lanka would solve the ethnic crisis by emulating India's example in solving the Punjab problem by allowing the people's will to prevail. He was talking to newsmen at Rashtrapathi Bhavan [presidential residence] today soon after the swearing in of Mr Gridhar Gomongo as deputy minister. The prime minister said the result of the Punjab elections is not only in support of the accord reached with Sant Longowal, but as indication of the democratic process. He said the people's votes were for nonviolence and against terrorism. There is also an expression of support for everything the Congress stands for, he added.

Gandhi Congratulates USSR'S Ryzhkov on Appointment

BK281559 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Sep 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has congratulzted Mr Nikolay Ryzhkov on becoming the new Soviet premier. In a message, Mr Gandhi said that the Soviet people have made impressive achievements in all fields since the October Revolution, and expressed the hope that they will continue to make progress udner his guidance. The time-tested friendship between the two countries is a factor of peace and stability in the region and in the world in general. He said India looks forward to continuing and strengthening the multifaceted relationship between the two countries.

Gandhi Leaves 29 Sep for 3-Day Bhutan Visit

BK290312 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, left New Delhi for Thimpu a short while ago on a 3-day visit to Bhutan. He is accompanied by Mrs Sonia Gandhi and a team of high-level officials. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was seen off at the airport, among others, by his cabinet colleagues, members of Parliament, and a number of other dignitaries.

Talking to newsmen before his departure, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said that there (? are) no issues outstanding between India and Bhutan. He added that his visit to Thimpu is a good-will visit. When asked about visiting any other South Asian country, the prime minister said that he will go to Dhaka in December to attend the South Asian Regional Cooperation Summit.

This will be Mr Rajiv Gandhi's first visit to Bhutan as prime minister. The talks between Mr Rajiv Gandhi and King Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan are likely to cover a wide range of subjects, including bilateral and international matters. Economic cooperation and North-South dialogue are among the subjects expected to come up during the discussions. There is no formal agenda for the talks.

Akali Dal Misses Two-Thirds Majority in Punjab

BK271607 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Sep 85

[Text] The Akali Dal has been voted to power in Punjab. It won 73 out of 115 assembly seats, elections for which were held on Wednesday. Though it secured an absolute majority, it could not get two-thirds of the seats. This is the party's best electoral performance, surpassing its previous record in 1977. The final party position is:

Results declared — 115: Akali Dal 73; Congress-I 32; Bharatiya Janata Party 4; CPI 1; Janata 1; and independents 4. The election in two constituencies at Jullundur district was countermanded.

In the Lok Sabha elections, all the 13 results are now available. The Akali Dal has won seven, while the Congress-I six.

Barnala To Form New Punjab Government

BK271620 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Sep 85

[Excerpts] The acting Akali Dal president, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has been unanimously elected leader of the Akali Dal legislature party. At a meeting of the newly elected party legislators in Chandigarh today, his name was proposed by the former chief minister, Mr Prakash Singh Badal, and seconded by Mr Sukhjinder Singh. Mr Barnala's election was hailed by a number of leaders at the meeting. Earlier, the district presidents of the party held a meeting.

Earlier, the Akali legislature party adopted a resolution paying glowing tributes to the Late Sant Harchand Singh Longowal. It said that the sant worked for strengthening communal harmony and unity throughout his life. The meeting condemned his brutal murder and appreciated his services as president of the party and in reaching the Punjab accord. It also paid tributes to those who made sacrifices for maintaining unity among various communities and for the integrity of the country. It urged the state government to take necessary action for setting up a suitable memorial for Sant Longowal.

According to PTI, Mr Barnala has been invited by the Punjab governor, Mr Arjun Singh, to form the government in the state. Mr Barnala will be sworn in as chief minister on Sunday.

The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, today thanked the brave and patriotic people of Punjab for crushing the forces of separatism and terrorism in a mighty blow in the elections. They have spoken for democracy, for secularism, for the unity and integrity of India against separatism and terrorism. They have blessed the Punjab accord, and democracy and nonviolence have won. It is also a victory to Bharat Mata [Mother India]. In a statement in New Delhi, he said, the people of Punjab have again demonstrated the enduring strength of democratic institutions in India and for asserting eloquently that India is invincible. The Congress-I, he said, might have lost the electoral battle but it has won the war for India's unity and integrity. This is the fundamental aim of the Congress-I, he said.

The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi has congratulated Mr Barnala for the Akali Dal's victory in the elections. In a telegram to Mr Barnala, he hoped that the party will put its shoulder to the wheel for moving Punjab on the path of progress and prosperity. The responsibility to carry through to a successful conclusion the process that began with the accord is on you, he said.

Punjab Ministry Sworn In

BK291319 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] In Punjab, a 6-member Akali Dal ministry headed by Mr Surjit Singh Barnala was sworn in at Chandigarh this evening. The oath of office and secrecy was administered by the governor, Mr Arjun Singh. Senior civil, military, and police officials were present. Mr Barnala will be the 10th chief minister of the state. Besides him, the five cabinet ministers sworn in are Mr Balwant Singh, Mr Amrinder Singh, Mr Sukhjinder Singh, Mr Basant Singh Khalsa, and Mr Major Singh Uboke.

Earlier, the president's rule in the state was revoked to pave way for the formation of the new ministry. The Election Commission has issued a notification duly constituting the new Punjab assembly.

Barnala Pledges To Honor Accord

BK291605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Excerpts] In Punjab, a 6-member Akali Dal ministry headed by Mr Surjit Singh Barnala was sworn in at Chandigarh this evening.

Immediately after assuming office the chief minister, Mr Barnala, in a statement said that his government will be guided by the promises and ideas of the late Sant Harchand Singh Longowal. He said it will be his foremost endeavor to promote amity and harmony among different communities in the state. His government will pursue the interest of the state within the overall framework of unity and integrity of the country.

Mr Barnala said his government will give top priority to the implementation of the Punjab accord and announced full support to the implementation of the agreement signed with the prime minister. He said his government will pursue a policy of constructive cooperation with the center. A commission of inquiry will be set up to go into the alleged political links of the terrorists and extremists in the state. A high-powered committee will also be constituted to start the process of releasing and rehabilitating the youths in jails.

His government, Mr Barnala said, will urge the center to consider sympathetically the cases of army deserters. He assured the people that all efforts will be made to strengthen the financial, industrial, commercial and, the agricultural base in Punjab. A suitable memorial will soon be erected in memory of Sant Harchand Singh Longowal and his murder will be investigated.

Radio Hails Election Success

BK271447 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1340 GMT 27 Sep 85

[K.G. Joglekar commentary: "The Punjab Poll"]

[Text] With a definite verdict in its favor from the people, the Akali Dal is now set to form a government in Punjab and take further steps toard implemeting the accord signed last July by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the Akali Dal chief, the late Sant Harchand Singh Longowal. The election to the Punjab assembly held last Wednesday was unique in many ways and has aroused more public interest than possibly any state assembly election in the 4 decades of India's independence. For several years now, life in Punjab had been disrupted by acts of violence committed by extremists. In the beginning, these were looked upon as isolated acts by misguided youths wanting to vent their anger, but it soon became apparent that there was a sinister design behind this violence. It was to paralyze the government, create chaos, make the people of all communities feel insecure, and, by silencing the voice of reason, create the impression that the people were behind the extremists.

Reasonable people of all communities and of all shades of opinion had long felt that the masses were not behind the extremists. They also saw the sinister design and intention behind the terrorism. The aim was to disrupt the unity and integrity of the country which was dear to everyone Indian, whether Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, or Christian. The rousing welcome given by people of all communities not only in Punjab but all over India to the accord between Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Sant Harchand Singh Longowal confirmed this faith.

Elections to the Punjab assembly and to the 13 seats in the Lok Sabha were a natural corollary to the Gandhi-Longowal accord. Doubts were expressed whether it was wise or even safe to hold the elections in the present atmosphere in Punjab which had been vitiated by violence. Events proved that these fears were unfounded. The election campaign went ahead, though full security had to be provided to the 900 candidates contesting the assembly and the Lok Sabha seats. If the election campaign was peaceful and surprised the cynics, the actual polling last Wednesday convincingly proved that the heart of Punjab was (?found). United Akali Dal of Baha Joginder Singh had given a call for boycott of the poll in which the Congress and the Akali Dal — headed now by Mr Surjit Singh Barnala — were the main contestants. Despite the call for a boycott and the fear that the terrorists might disrupt the poll, more than 60 percent of the electorate turned up to exercise their right to vote. Observers agree that the election campaign and polling were possibly the most fruitful in recent eyars. The people have thus given a resounding reply on the one hand to the cynics but much more so to the United Akali Dal, the extremists, and the terrorists. The reply to the latter was really resounding. The people told them that their verdict was unequivocally for the ballot box and not for the bullets. As the voters in some border constituencies of the state queued up outside the polling stations, many people in the border areas of Pakistan watched with interest and possible envy. They climbed on tree tops and waved to the voters. The curiosity and the envy were understandable because of Pakistan's recent political history.

The Punjab election was interesting for another reason. Both the main contestants — the Congress and Akali Dal — were committed to a full implementation of the Gandhi-Longowal accord. They were also commited to democracy which means finding a solution to all questions by talks and negotiations. Thirdly, they were both against violence. What was important in Punjab, therefore, was not the outcome of the election and which party was voted to power. What mattered was the election should be held and the people allowed to get a chance to express their choice without fear. This has happened. The people have given their verdict against terrorism and for the politics of negotiation, reconciliation, and reason. It will now be for the government which is formed as a result of the election to live up to the expectations of the people. The new government will thus have a challenging task ahead of it to restore the confidence of the people and to clear the backlog in development.

Communal Violence Flares in Gujarat, Maharashtra

HK280452 Hong Kong AFP in English 0449 GMT 28 Sep 85

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 28 (AFP) — Three people have been killed and 18 injured in group clashes, apparently involving Hindu and Muslim communities, in two western indian states, PRESS TRUST OF INIDA (PTI) said today.

Two people were stabbed to death in Baroda District of Gujarat, while a third was was stoned to death in Jalgaon District of neighbouring Maharashtra State last night, during the Hindu festival of Lord Ganesh, PTI added.

Eighteen people, including a policeman, were injured in violent incidents reported in several areas in the Baroda and Jalgaon districts, PTI said.

The army has been put on standby in Baroda in case of further incidents, the report added.

USSR To Assist in Oil Exploration Projects

BK300326 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Sep 85

[Text] India and the Soviet Union are to negotiate for the 380-crore-rupee oil exploration projects in Cauvery and Cambay basins soon. The minister of state for petroleum, Mr Nawal Kishore Sharma, said in Baroda that India will contribute 25 percent of the cost. He said liberalized exploration policy has helped boost oil production. Over 77 million [metric] tons of recoverable oil reserves have been established in Assam, Cambay Basin, Tripura, Krishna-Godavari Basins, and the west coast offshore fields during the current year.

Barter Deal Struck With Poland for Coal, Iron Ore

HK300751 Hong Kong AFP in English 0530 GMT 30 Sep 85

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 30 (AFP) — India will import 150,000 tonnes of coking coal from Poland in exchange for a matching quantity of iron ore from this country, Commerce Ministry sources said today.

The swap deal is the first of its kind arranged between the two countries.

The coal, estimated to cost about 110 million rupees (about nine million U.S. dollars), would be used by the Steel Authority of India while the export of the ore would be done by the state-owned Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation, the sources said.

The transport of both the coal and the iron ore would be done by vessels of the Shipping Corporation of India.

Despite the higher price of Polish coal the deal was concluded taking advantage of the rupee payment agreement with that country, the sources added.

Junejo Congratulates New Soviet Prime Minister
BK281610 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Sep 85

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has congratulated Nikolay Ryzhkov on his appointment as Soviet prime minister. In a message, he said he hopes for improved relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union, and the Pakistani Government will make every possible effort to realize this goal.

Junejo on Revisions to Eighth Amendment Bill
BK291725 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has said unanimous recommendations of the official parliamentary group will be introduced in the form of a new bill in the National Assembly tomorrow to amend certain articles of the Constitution. He was addressing this evening a largely attended news conference in Rawalpindi. The president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq was also present.

The prime minister said that since the 8th of this month, when the Constitution Eighth Amendment Bill was introduced in the National Assembly, it was their endeavor to carry all members of the house with them in view of the importance of the bill. He said contact was also made with the members of independent parliamentary group to build the consensus on the bill. He announced that at the insistence of the official parliamentary group it has been decided to delete the article about the National Security Council. He said the official parliamentary group discussed the question of deleting the article today.

The prime minister said he informed them that the president had agreed that the National Assembly could change any article of the constitution as it was the sovereign body. If the members did not favor retention of any article, they could delete it, he added.

Giving details of the efforts for a consensus, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo said it was their effort that the whole house should approve the proposed amendment.

Replying to another question, he said as far as martial law was concerned, they have to evolve assistance which will ensure that it was not imposed again. He was confident that the measures to be evolved would prevent in future the imposition of martial law.

He told a questioner that the proposals being put forward by the independent parliamentary group are of the same nature as have been proposed by the special parliamentary group. These will be thrushed out at the meeting of the unofficial committee of the National Assembly dealing with the Constitution Eighth Amendment Bill. He was hopeful that a consensus will be arrived at.

In reply to another question, he said the National Assembly will start discussion on the new amendment bill tomorrow in which some amendments have been proposed. As to the nature of these amendments, he said these would be known tomorrow. He said he hoped the independent parliamentary group will accept the proposed amendments as it was their endeavor to take them along to the [words indistinct].

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in reply to a question paid tributes to the wise leadership and sagacity of the prime minister in dealing with the constitutional issues. He said in this connection he would like to assure that the National Assembly is fully sovereign and whatever legislation it will adopt, he will be honorbound to accept it. As far as the armed forces were concerned, he said the present situation was neither a question of prestige nor a matter of crisis for them. He said the armed forces would support and cooperate in all measures which would help stabilize the political government.

Finance Minister Leaves for PRC, DPRK, ROK
BK290708 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] Federal Finance Minister Dr Mahbubul Haq left Islamabad this morning on a visit to China, the DPRK, and the ROK. Talking to Radio Pakistan's correspondent at the airport, he said he is visiting China in connection with the joint commission meeting there. He said he will also hold talks on increasing cooperation in various fields, especially electricity, the steel industry, and trade. China is already cooperating with Pakistan in Guddu Project No. 4, and discussions are now under way for a second 210-megawatt project at Jamshoro.

About his visit to the DPRK, he said he is carrying a special message from President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq to president Kim Il-Song. He will also participate in the second meeting of the Pakistan-DPRK Joint Commission.

In Seoul, the finance minister will participate in the annual meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. He will also meet with World Bank president Clausen, Managing Director of the U.S. Treasury Department Jim Baker [Title as heard], and USAID Chief McPherson to discuss matters relating to Pakistan's aid requirements and bilateral relations.

Government Considering Forming Police Reserve
BK300158 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] The National Assembly today referred to the Standing Committee the Central Law Officers Amendment Bill to report back to the house within 3 days. The house accepted a motion to this effect by the minister for justice and parliamentary affairs, Mr Iqbal Ahmad Khan. This followed opposition by Haji Mohammad Saifullah Khan and Mr M. P. Bhandara for dispensation of relevant rules to enable its immediate consideration. The house has adjourned to meet tomorrow at 1830.

Earlier, the federal minister for interior, Mr Mohammad Aslam Khan Khattak, told the house during question hour that a proposal to raise a reserve police force was under the consideration of the government. This force, unlike the defunct federal security force, would not be equipped with lethal weapons. It would be organized to protect the citizens, which was the need of

the day. It would be under the federal government and would be located in the provinces to meet their requirements.

Work Ban on Students Illegally in Communist Nations

GF280637 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 14 Sep 85 p 8

[Excerpt] Peshawar, Sept 13: The NWFP [Northwest Federal Province] Governor, Lt. Gen Fazle Haq has said that all those students who had proceeded illegally to any of the Communist country for acquiring education there, will not get employment in any government or semi-government organisation, on their return.

The same ban will apply to those who follow such a clandestine route, in future. He said this decision has been taken following reports that a few students had proceeded abroad without valid permission. All the recruting agencies including the Public Service Commission had been informed of such ban, he added.

The Governor's attention was drawn by the tribal Maliks about the illegal exit of students particularly of tribal areas during his meetings with six delegations of the area, which called on the Governor in Parachinar. The tribal Maliks had requested the Governor that the government privileges granted to the parents of such students should be withdrawn.

Afghanistan Reported Bribing Pakistani Tribesmen

GF281130 Lahore JANG in Urdu 24 Sep 85 p 8

[Text] Peshawar — The Afghan Government has launched a program aimed at winning over the tribesman in Pakistan. The program includes distribution of guns and money among the tribal people. It has been revealed that the Karmal government has already distributed 4,000 Kalashikov rifles and huge sums of money among the tribesmen. The headquarters for this program has been set up in Jalalabad, where the henchmen of tribal leader Malik Wali Khan Kukihail visit and have talks with Karmal officials. Each tribesman receives 1 rifle and 10,000 Pakistani rupees as a bribe.

Arabs Aiding Afghans Murdered in Northwest Province

GF291521 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 25 Sep 85 p 1

[Text] Peshawar, 24 Sep (PPI) — At (Terimengal) village near Parachinar in Kurram Agency, NWFP, certain unknown persons murdered two rich Arab shaykhs and two other persons. According to reliable sources, it is apparent that the killers followed the shaykhs and their party from a bank where they had withdrawn 3.5 million rupees meant for distribution among the Afgh.n mujahidin across the border in Afghanistan. The shay.hs and their party intended to cross the border when the incident took place. The killers shot the two Arab shaykhs and two other members of their party and made away with 3.5 million rupees. The names of the two Arab shaykhs have not been disclosed.

Reportage on Fighting, Casualties in Afghanistan

Afghan Chief of Staff Killed

BK280229 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Sep 85

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, the chief of staff of the Kabul regime's armed forces, Major General Shahnawaz Thani, has been killed. He was killed in the eastern cantonement of Khowst earlier this week when his armored vehicle was destroyed after hitting a mine. He was commanding his army in an attack against the mujahidin. Major General Thani is one of the most senior commanders killed in fighting with the mujahidin. The reports say that 18 more persons were killed with him. The incident happened at (Kharsin) village, 10 km southeast of Khowst.

Mujahidin Down 9 Aircraft

BK291032 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have damaged nine aircraft in a missile attack at the Baghran airport near Kabul on the night of seventeenth of this month. The runway and the airport buildings were also damaged and the flights had to be suspended for several days.

According to another report the mujahidin attacked the army center of Qala Nau, provincial headquarters of Badghis, killing and injuring a number of Soviet-Karmal troops. Three arms and ammunition depots were also gutted in the operation.

BANGLADESH

Ershad Congratulates New Soviet Prime Minister

BK281444 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Sep 85

[Text] Bangladesh President Ershad has congratulated Nikolay Ryzhkov on his appointment as the new Soviet chairman of the Council of Ministers. In a message to Mr Ryzhkov today, President Ershad expressed his sincere belief that the efforts in promoting friendly relations between Bangladesh and the Soviet Union will be further strengthened during the Soviet leader's term of office.

Ershad Greets PRC Leaders on National Day

BK301358 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 30 Sep 85

[Text] Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad has felicitated President Li Xiannian on the occasion of the 46th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China. In a message, the president recalled his recent visit to China and expressed his full conviction that the great Chinese people will continue their onward march for the attainment of yet greater progress and prosperity at home. They will, under the inspiration and guidance of their wise, benevolent, and dynamic leaders, also make positive and lasting contribution toward the promotion of peace and security in the world.

President Ershad also expressed his hope that the deep and abiding friendship, mutual understanding, and positive cooperation existing between China and Bangladesh will further grow in depth and dimension in the years ahead to the mutual benefit of the two people.

President Ershad sent another message of felicitations and greetings to Premier Zhao Ziyang on the occasion and expressed the similar sentiments.

Ershad Receives Outgoing PRC, Hungarian Envoys

BK291604 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] The outgoing ambassadors of China and Hungary paid farewell calls on the president at Banga Bhavan [presidential residence] today. They expressed their gratitude to the president and his government for all cooperation and assistance in the smooth discharge of their duties in Bangladesh. The president appreciated their role in further promoting the friendly ties between Bangladesh and their countries.

Tribal Insurgents Reportedly Kidnap 4 People

HK290557 Hong Kong AFP in English 0535 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 29 (AFP) — Tribal insurgents in Bangladesh's southeastern Chittagong Hill tracts have kidnapped at least four people in the last few weeks, Dhaka newspapers reported today.

THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER said that the insurgents, the Shanti Bahini, later released one of the four people they had taken hostage on payment of a ransom of 60,000 taka (2,300 dollars).

Newspaper reports quoting police at the Rangamati District headquarters said that the Shanti Bahini had kidnapped one forest department employee at Barkal and two others from Bangasdu Village in recent weeks.

A fisherman was also seized by armed members of the group in the Kaptai Lake area last week.

The Shanti Bahini insurgents have been active in the jungles of the hill tracts for the last ten years.

They are demanding autonomy for an area of some 13,000 square kilometers (5,200 square miles) on the border with India and Burma.

BHUTAN

Reportage on Gandhi 3-Day Visit to Thimpu

29 Sep Arrival

BK290944 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, was given a warm and rousing reception on his arrival in Thimpu on a 3-day official visit to Bhutan this morning. A 21-gun salute boomed and hundreds of Bhutanese children recited welcome songs waving Indian and Bhutanese flags. AIR [All India Radio] special correspondent Radhanath Chaturvedi reports from Thimpu that the Bhutan king, Jigme Singye Wangchuk, drove to (Hashmara) despite inclement weather to receive the prime minister and to accompany him to Thimpu by helicopter. After the welcome ceremony at the helipad, the prime minister was taken in a procession to the palace, 7 km from the helipad. He will stay there today and tomorrow.

The talks between Mr Rajiv Gandhi and the king of Bhutan are likely to cover a wide range of subjects including bilateral and international matters.

Gandhi 29 Sep Banquet Speech

BK291634 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] India has pledged to continue to help Bhutan in its development. Speaking at a banquet hosted by King Jigme Singye Wangchuk in Thimpu tonight in his honor, the prime minister said that India does not regard the help given to Bhutan as assistance or aid. It is only sharing of resources for common benefit.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi said Indo-Bhutanese friendship is not merely a coming together of two nations. From the beginning of history, there has been a close kinship and cultural interaction between the two nations. The eternal message of Buddha brought to Bhutan centuries ago makes us inseparable.

Our special correspondent, Radhanath Chaturvedi, covering the prime minister's visit says that Mr Rajiv Gandhi struck a personal note and spoke of his grandfather and mother's visit to Bhutan 27 years ago. He also spoke of the change that has come in both the countries since their visit.

Mr Gandhi pointed out that if genuine progress is to be achieved, we need peace in the world and stability in our region. The trust and confidence we repose on each other and the frequent consultations are a major contribution to the growth of the South Asian regional cooperation.

He said the Indo-Bhutan relations indicate that when there is true respect and understanding, difference in size does not come in the way of equality. It will be India's endeavor to build further the excellent foundation that has been laid, he said.

The Bhutan king said the relations between the two countries enjoy complete trust and friendship. There is close understanding on all issues of mutual concern and interest. The two countries have demonstrated to the world that a large country like India and a small country like Bhutan can coexist in perfect harmony and cooperation if there is enlightened and farsighted leadership. The mutually beneficial ties between them also serve as a model to other countries. Their friendship is nothing new and dates back to Jawaharlal Nehru's visit in 1958. As a result, Bhutan opened its door to the outside world after several centuries of self-imposed isolation. Mrs Indira Gandhi gave a new dimension to the friendship.

The king referred to the successful tackling of some internal issues by Mr Rajiv Gandhi and said that it shows his great political wisdom and courage.

He also praised Mr Gandhi's efforts in improving relations with the neighboring countries. This has brought about a distinct improvement in the political climate in South Asia, he said.

Gandhi Addresses National Assembly

BK301035 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 30 Sep 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has called upon the developing countries to resist the global policies of big powers which try to increase tension in various regions and foment distrust. Mr Gandhi was addressing the Bhutan National Assembly in Thimpu today. He said to resist big-power politics we must development a relationship of trust with our neighbors. He regretted that many developing nations are now forced to spend more on armament. Mr Gandhi said that a shadow of nuclear destruction is looming large and the international economic order is in disarray. These pressures are telling upon the developing nations heavily.

The prime minister said the Nonaligned Movement has been pleading with the nuclear weapons states and the economically strong countries to use their strnegth with wisdom. He said [6-nation] Delhi declaration [on nuclear disarmament] had received overwhelming support of the international community and noted with happiness that Bhutan also wholeheartedly supported it.

The All India Radio correspondent Parmesh Kashyap reports from Thimpu that this is the first time a special session of the Assembly has been convened in Bhutan to hear a visiting dignitary.

Mr Gandhi pointed out that the region sheltered by the Himalayas has a distinct personality and historical traditions. We are planning to strengthen them through the concept of South Asian regional cooperation.

Referring to the recent talks on the Sri Lankan ethinic problem in Thimpu, he welcomed Bhutan's coming forward to host the meeting. Speaking of India-Bhutanese cooperation, he said India will finance a number of development projects in that country. These include improvement of electricity distribution in the capital of Thimpu and the City of Paro, construction of minihydroelectric projects, and other schemes including the setting up of a broadcasting station. He said India has always been associated with Bhutan's plans and has financed a portion of its fifth plan. We will continue to help them in the next plan as well. Bhutan is not only a close neighbor but also close to our hearts, he said. He pointed out that the Chhukha hydroelectric project is a fine example of mutual cooperation between the two nations.

NEPAL

Prime Minister Congratulates New Soviet Premier

BK291521 Katmandu External Service in English
1445 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand, in a message to Nikolay Ryzhkov, has extended hearty congratulations on his appointment as the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. In the message, Prime Minister Chand has expressed confidence that the friendly relations so happily existing between Nepal and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics will be further strengthened during the tenure of his office.

SRI LANKA

Minister On Resolve To Solve National Crisis

BK291118 Colombo International Service in English
1030 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] Minister of National Security Lalith Athulathmudali has given the assurance that a definite solution will be found to the current crisis, which he described as the most serious problem in the second half of the 20th century. He said that if the problem cannot be solved through discussions or through military means alone, then both negotiations and arms will be used in achieving

a solution. Speaking at the closing ceremony of the 110th mahapola [fair] at the D.S. Senenayake Maha Vidialaya at Polgahawela yesterday, the minister pointed out that for this courage is needed in addition to the unity and determination of everyone.

Mr Athulathmudali stated that both President Jayewardene and himself wanted to solve the problem through peaceful means without the loss of life. Every measure is being taken to achieve this. The government of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is doing everything possible in this regard. However, he pointed out that those who believe in violence will not be allowed to capture and hold any part of the country for even a minute. He stated that this has been proved by our security forces in Nilaveli. The security forces have been strengthened so that they can defend any attack on any police station. This has been demonstrated in the battles against the terrorists at Eravur, Kilinochchi and Mahawalatenna. Recalling how the police officers repulsed terrorists in the attack on the Kilinochchi police station, the minister said that ever since then the security forces have been requested that they be stationed there until terrorist activity in the area has been completely wiped out. He added that heroes had always emerged during times of crisis in the 2,500 year-old history of ours.

The national security minister further stated that Sri Lanka will need a security force of at least 100,000 if law and order is to be maintained in the country and development stabilized.

The district minister for Trincomalee, H.G.P. Nelson; the MP for Polgahawela, Sunil Ranjan Jayekody; and several other officials spoke on the occasion.

Security Council Meets on Tamil Issue
HK300749 Hong Kong AFP in English 0732 GMT 30 Sep 85

[By Neville de Silva]

[Excerpt] Colombo, Sept 30 (AFP) — Sri Lanka's National Security Council met here today to discuss the working arrangements for a team to monitor a ceasefire between government and Tamil separatist forces, official sources said.

The meeting came shortly after Tamil separatist guerrillas armed with automatic weapons and grenades killed one policeman and seriously wounded another in a pre-dawn raid on the police station in Vavuniya in the north.

Security sources said that the attack caused some damage to the station buildings. There were no immediate reports of casualties among the attackers.

Since September 23 guerrillas pave attacked three police stations, killing one policeman and wounding 10 security forces personnel and a civilian.

Nine guerrillas were killed in these attacks, and eight others were killed in ambushes laid by government troops, official sources said.

Militant members of the minority Tamil community in Sri Lanka, where the Sinhala majority is dominant, are fighting for a separate state in the north and east of the country.

The government is expected to announce today the terms of reference and mandate for the three-member ceasefire monitoring team appointed last week.

Guerrilla groups based in southern India have refused to accept the multi-racial team, and instead are pressing for international observers.

The government has in turn rejected the proposal for international observers, arguing that the Sri Lankan conflict is an internal matter.

Reliable sources said that most of the names on a list of candidates submitted by guerrilla groups for inclusion in the monitoring team were not acceptable to the government because they were considered leftists.

However, the government is expected to allow the monitoring team to co-opt members to help it study ceasefire violations.

The government has unilaterally extended a three-month ceasefire that was due to end on September 18, but the five major guerrilla groups have not accepted the extension.

India's Bhandari Fails To Resolve Talks Deadlock
HK271556 Hong Kong AFP in English 1550 GMT 27 Sep 85

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Sept 27 (AFP) — Indian Foreign Secretary Romesh Bhandari returned here today after two days of talks with Sri Lankan Government officials in Colombo, and Tamil militant representatives in Madras.

A Foreign Office spokesman said here that Mr Bhandari had conveyed the results of his talks to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, but he gave no details.

Tamil militant sources in Madras reported that the meetings had failed to make any headway towards their goal of bringing the Sri Lankan Government and Tamil militants back to the negotiating table.

Mr Bhandari told the Tamils that the Indian Government would like a third round of peace talks to begin here October 2.

But this is unlikely as Colombo had not yet accepted any of the Tamils' conditions for implementation of a ceasefire, the sources said.

But they added that Tamil leaders would nonetheless go to New Delhi Monday to resume talks with Mr Bhandari solely on the question of implementing the ceasefire.

In Madras, the Tamil representatives stressed to Mr Bhandari the importance of entrusting ceasefire supervision to an international agency, the sources said.

However, Colombo has said that foreign observers would impinge on its sovereignty.

The Tamil representatives, who took part in the previous two rounds of peace talks, also expressed their lack of confidence in the three-member committee appointed by the Sri Lankan Government to monitor the ceasefire, the sources added.

(The Eelam National Liberation Front (ENLF), an umbrella organisation of four of the major militant groups, has now submitted a list in New Delhi of 20 local persons it wants appointed to the monitoring group, diplomatic sources said in Colombo today.)

Present at the talks in Madras were representatives of the ENLF, the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front and the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam.

In Colombo, Mr. Bhandari was assured by Sri Lankan leaders that the armed forces, now confined to barracks, would no longer go out on "search and destroy" missions as long as the militants refrained from any provocative acts.

But he was unable to persuade the Sri Lankan Government to disarm the home guards, responsible for most of the killings in the Eastern Province, the Tamil sources added.

Tamil Separatists Demand Effective Ceasefire

NC291606 Paris AFP in English 1543 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 29 (AFP) — Sri Lankan Tamil separatist leaders said today that peace talks with the Sri Lankan Government could not resume until conditions were created for an effective ceasefire.

Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted V. Prabhakaran, leader of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), as saying in the Southern Indian city of Madras: "We are for an effective ceasefire but it is up to the island government to bring about an effective truce."

He added that the LTTE would retaliate to any ceasefire violations by Colombo, PTI said.

Uma Maheswaran, leader of the Peoples Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOT) and V. Balakumar, spokesman for the four-group Eelam National Liberation Front (ENLF) echoed similar opinions, PTI said.

Talks in Bhutan in July and August broke down when the separatists rejected Colombo's proposals of more autonomy for Tamil areas as insufficient.

Meanwhile a spokesman for the Tamil Eelam Liberation Front (TELF), Kovai Mahesan, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE by telephone today that his group would agree to nothing short of an independent state for the Tamils in the North and East of the island.

The TELF did not attend the peace talks in July and August.

A spokesman for the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) political party today said some Tamil leaders would hold talks with Indian Foreign Secretary Romesh Bhandari on October 5 aimed at an effective ceasefire, PTI said.

Mr. Bhandari was in Colombo last week for talks with Sri Lankan leaders to find a solution to the island's bloody ethnic conflict.

Colombo has so far agreed to set up committees of prominent civilians to monitor a ceasefire, but the separatists insist on international monitoring.

They have also demanded the disarming of Sinhalese Home Guards and civilians, the lifting of curfews in Tamil areas, and the confining of security forces to barracks.

ENLF Satisfied With Gandhi Peace Efforts

BK291314 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] The Eelam National Liberation Front [ENLF] has expressed satisfaction over Mr Rajiv Gandhi's reiteration on finding a permanent solution to the Sri Lankan ethnic issue. A spokesman of the front said this to our correspondent in Madras after the meeting of the leaders of the four constituents of the front today. The spokesman said the representatives of the ENLF are available for discussions with the foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, from the 1st of next month.

Attack on Police Station Leaves 14 Dead

HK280748 Hong Kong AFP in English 0734 GMT 28 Sep 85

[Text] Colombo, Sept 28 (AFP) — Security forces were today searching for the rest of a Tamil separatist group which attacked a police station yesterday, leaving at least 13 militants and a solider dead, official sources said.

A gun battle broke out when troops hurrying to help the beseiged Villachiya police station yesterday ran into the fleeting separatist attackers.

Seven militants died and three others may have been seriously wounded in the shootout, Lieutenant General Cyril Ranatunge, head of the Joint Operation Command, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Six militants also died during the predawn attack on the police station, Lt Gen Ranatunge added.

He said that troops were scouring the northwestern jungle area for the rest of the militants and possibly some of their collegues who are likely to be holed up in jungle hideouts.

The Villachiya incident was the second attack on a police station this week. On Monday night, separatists struck at the northern Kilinochchi station using what government sources described as

a napalm-type mixture which wounded nine soldiers and policemen.

Three militants were killed in the attack.

A National Security Ministry statement said that the militants are believed to be planning to launch a major attack against security forces in the Eastern Province in the next few days.

An attempt by militants to bring hand grenades into Batticaloa, the eastern province capital, on Thursday, was an indication that a major offensive was in the offing, the statement said.

A group of militants arrived in a motor boat and opened fire on a foot patrol at Kaluwanpankerny in Batticaloa Thursday.

When reinforcements arrived to assist the patrol, the militants fled but left behind a bag containing 33 grenades and some documents connected with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The LTTE was one of the parties to a ceasefire and peace talks with the Sri Lanka Government which remain stalled despite Indian efforts to restart them.

Tamil militants are campaigning for greater autonomy in the north and east of Sri Lanka, complaining that the country's Tamil minority is discriminated against by the Sinhala majority.

Colombo Reports 30 Sep Attack on Police Station
BK301059 Colombo International Service in English 1245 GMT 30 Sep 85

[Text] An attack by 150 terrorists on the Vavuniya police station was repulsed by security forces early this morning. One policeman died and one sergeant was injured. Security sources told the national news agency LANKAPUWATH that several weapons were recovered from the terrorists. It was not immediately known whether the attackers suffered any casulties or how long the pre-dawn raid lasted, the sources added, quoting initial reports from Vavuniya.

Editorial Warns Indian Media On One-Sided View
BK290842 Colombo SUN in English 19 Sep 85 p 7

[Editorial: "Peace With Dignity"]

[Text] Lanka and its people need peace. Desperately.

But if the cost of having it is at the expense of our national integrity, soveriegnty and self respect then it is time to think again. For then even a bloody war would indeed be preferable.

India, the 'Big Brother — Good Neighbour' is, we know making a valiant effort through the personal intervention of Premier Rajiv Gandhi to promote a peaceful settlement to Lanka's crisis.

As in most diplomatic adventures, however great and altruistic they may be, there could always be some flaws. The ongoing peace process is no exception. It appears the intransigent and belligerent attitude of the terrorists has resulted in a virtual deadlock to these talks. And the events of the last few days do not permit us to be fully confident of the ultimate outcome from this on-again-off-again exercise. Lanka searches for a peaceful solution and she cannot and must not be held to ransom. Just because the terrorists want all the cake, they are bent on generating anarchy, death and destruction in this country.

We cannot and will not succumb to any compromise under duress. As we have always maintained nobody — not even India should be allowed a free hand to tinker with this country's sovereign rights.

We say this not because we have doubts about the credibility of the Honest Broker. But there is good reason to believe that multifarious pressures backed by the propaganda war now being waged in the world's capitals are a pointer to pontential dangers from outside.

Already the outspoken media across the Palk Straits are crowing with claims that it was India that compelled Lanka to extend the ceasefire. Nary a word about India trying to get the agents of terror to do likewise.

The politicians in Tamil Nadu, for parochial reasons of their own never let up on exacerbating the Lankan crisis, alleging blood-curdling atrocities.

The Indian media and Tamil Nadu politicos see no terrorist in Lanka. To them, as even to the TULF, these are simply "Boys" on a spree. Innocentsm.

We are indeed being pushed around; to borrow a phrase from the President. But there is a limit to being pushed. And the South Indian media should remember that even the worm can turn.

UK Newspaper on Purchase of PRC Missiles Cited

LD291627 Tehran IRNA in English 1616 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] London, Sept. 29, IRNA — "Iran has purchased 40 ground-to-ground missiles from China and the first 15 have arrived", reported the London-based *OBSERVER* Sunday. *THE OBSERVER* quoted sources in the arms market as saying "the deal is for an upgraded Chinese version of the Soviet SCUD missiles".

Iran fired a number of ground-to-ground missiles at the heart of Baghdad earlier this year in retaliation for Iraqi air raids on residential areas and has warned firm response if Iraq resumed its attacks.

The Iraqi aerial raids stopped when Baghdad realized its efforts to demoralize the Muslim nation of Iran had backfired. On 14 June, huge crowds joined in the Jerusalem Day marches in Iran to voice support for an Iranian military victory in the war.

THE OBSERVER quoted its sources as saying that the Chinese missiles have a range of 300 km. According to Iran's Majlis speaker, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Iran's Muslim combatants are stationed only 100 kms from the Iraqi capital.

On Tuesday the Tokyo-based *YOMIURI SHIMBUN* and *NIHON KEIZAI* dailies reported that Iran has purchased 70 ground-to-ground and 60 ground-to-air Soviet-made missiles capable of hitting MiG 23-S and F-1 Mirages. The deal, the dailies said, had been arranged by a third party.

Military Sources Deny Report

LD300957 Tehran IRNA in English 0951 GMT 30 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 30, IRNA — An informed military source here Monday categorically denied a recent report by the British daily *OBSERVER* alleging the Islamic Republic of Iran of having established arms cooperation with the People's Republic of China.

Commenting on this issue, the source added that publications such as *OBSERVER* were trying to attract more readers by printing such fabricated reports. However, he added, these allegations are totally baseless and are strongly denied.

OBSERVER reported on Sunday that China has sold arms, including missiles, to Iran.

IRGC Chief: SAM Site To Become Operational 'Soon'

LD291014 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 29, IRNA — Commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Rezai'e here Saturday said that the first surface-to-air missile site of the IRGC would become operational soon, adding that this will be a great achievement in the air defence of the country. He said that the ground-to-ground missile unit of the IRGC has already been used in retaliatory operations.

Speaking in an interview with the Persian evening daily *ETTE LA'AT*, the IRGC commander further said that the IRGC has succeeded in training its personnel for operating these strategic arms. Referring to IRGC's technological advancements, he said that since last year the corps has started manufacturing of a sophisticated anti-tank missile, one of the most modern in kind, that even some Eastern bloc countries have failed to manufacture. Equipping the Iranian forces with these missiles would prevent the Iraqi tanks from approaching bunkers of Islamic combatants.

Commenting on situation in Kordestan, he said except for some small border areas such as parts in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province and Qala Diza city, the entire region has been mopped up of counterrevolutionaries. However, there is a need for a public mobilisation from cultural and economic point of view to help Kurdish people who had been deprived by counterrevolutionaries of establishing contacts with the government and the nation.

Referring to Iraqi threats to resume attacks on residential areas, the IRGC commander said this policy was aimed at forcing the Iranian nation to surrender. "They try to impose a peace upon us," he stressed. In order to nullify such attempts, Rezai'e said, plans were underway which, once approved by the Supreme Defence Council and the leadership, would be implemented.

On the situation of the IRGC members in southern Lebanon, he said that the IRGC personnel do not interfere in military developments in Lebanon, however, they help Lebanese Muslims to increase their combat readiness.

Notes Recent Successes

LD280838 Tehran IRNA in English 0600 GMT 28 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 28, IRNA — Commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Rezai'e said that during the past Iranian year (began March 21, 1984), Iran's Islamic combatants had killed 40 to 60 thousand Iraqi forces.

Iranian forces also destroyed 13 enemy war planes, 23 helicopters, 90 artillery pieces, and 800 vehicles, and seized five radars, 50 tanks and personnel carriers, 70 vehicles and 120 mortar launchers, he said.

Delivering a pre-sermon speech to worshippers of Tehran's Friday congregational prayers, the IRGC commander stressed that these figures were indicative of the achievements of the Iranian forces in the war fronts last year.

He described the operation of the IRGC's missile unit as another important achievement during the same period and noted that the unit fired 13 missiles on Baghdad and another one on Kirkuk.

Rezai'e also warned of plots being hatched in the Persian Gulf "aimed at creating a gap between the people and Islam."

Stressing that the superpowers were equipping Iraq with required arms and facilities, Rezai'e said that the Iraqi Ba'th Party was a tool in the hands of the U.S. to bring back Iran to its previous state of subserviency to America.

The U.S. was trying to recapture the liberated Iranians and their resources in its own interest, Rezai'e said, adding that contrary to its allegations, the U.S. was not seeking peace but rather "annihilation of the Islamic revolution."

Oil Company Spokesman Says Khark 'Still Working'

GF290552 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 29 Sep 85 pp 1, 2

[Excerpts] Iraqi warplanes yesterday launched their fifth attack in as many days on Iran's Khark Island oil terminal in what Gulf oil and shipping sources said was a determined bid to keep the terminal out of service.

A spokesman fo the Iranian National Oil Corporation [INOC] in Tehran confirmed that the Island's main control room and Sea Island jetty were out of action because of the Iraqi attacks.

But he denied that the terminal was shut because of bomb damage to its devastated facilities. "Khark is still working, but at a reduced capacity," he said. "Sea Island is not working at the moment but we expect it to be back in operation in the future," said INOC spokesman 'Abbas Torabian. "The control room is damaged and is not working properly, but we are still able to export oil."

The INOC spokesman said there were now seven or eight ships involved in the Sirri Island shuttle, ferrying oil between Khark and Sirri Island.

Independent sources in the Gulf said Iran's ability to export from Khark had been severely disrupted by the Iraqi attacks but there was no reason to disbelieve Iranian claims that Khark was still functioning albeit well below its pre-August rate of 1.4 million barrels a day.

Musavi: Export System To Be Made 'More Invulnerable'

LD291811 Tehran IRNA in English 1803 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 29. IRNA — In a cabinet session here Sunday, Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said, "with the initiatives the government has underway, we will make our oil export system much more invulnerable in the shortest time which will even surprise our enemies."

Referring to the foreign malicious propaganda waged against the Islamic Republic, the prime minister said "unlike what Western media try to inculcate, our economic situation is not comparable to that of Iraq."

Citing Western media reports that Iraq has a 52-billion-dollar foreign debt Musavi said that Iran has no foreign debt and in terms of payments balance, our country has a unique situation in the world.

"Such anti-Iran noise by American and Zionist mass media does not have the least effect on our policies, and France should know her recent sale of 24 Mirage fighters would be ineffective in maintaining Saddam (in power)," the prime minister stressed.

These aircraft will have the same fate as the Super Entendards previously put at the disposal of the Iraqi regime, Musavi said.

UN Representative Notes 'Threat' To Close Strait

LD281129 Tehran IRNA in English 1122 GMT 28 Sep 85

[Text] London, Sept 28 IRNA — Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations Seyyed Rajai'e Khorasani here Friday said that Iraqi attack on Iran's oil installations at Khark Island was the last means Baghdad regime resorted to.

Speaking to a large number of Iranian and non-Iranian Muslims, he referred to Iran's threat to close the Strait of Hormuz and warned the regional states that in case Iran faces extraordinary conditions it will embark on extraordinary operations.

He stressed that the so-called peace-seeking policy of the world oppression was due to the danger threating its interests in the region. If U.S. interests in the region have not yet been completely annihilated at least they have been seriously endangered.

Three Detained Cargo Ships Released

LD281628 Tehran IRNA in English 1622 GMT 28 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 28, IRNA — The naval officers of Islamic Republic of Iran announced Saturday that three cargo ships intercepted in Persian Gulf over the past 48 hours have been inspected and released. The ships named the *Arkona*, the *Bribri* and *Express Lato* were from Germany, Yugoslavia and Panama, said official sources of Iran's Navy.

The Iranian officers were satisfied upon inspection that the three ships had no cargo on board for Iraq.

Khomeyni Advises Against Change of Government

LD291123 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, at today's open session of the Islamic Majlis, the deputy from Jiroft announced in his pre-agenda speech that a group of Majlis deputies sent a letter to Imam Khomeyni asking him to provide some guidelines in connection with the next government. The imam of the ummah stated that changing the government is not advantageous but that the [present] government should be given more serious support.

According to the parliamentary correspondent of the Central News Unit, the letter was signed by 135 Majlis deputies and sent to the imam of the ummah. In this letter, having paid tribute to the achievements of Mir-Hoseyn Musavi in running the affairs of the state despite serious economic difficulties and war-related problems, the Majlis deputies announced that the government of Mir-Hoseyn Musavi has been a successful one. The signatories, expressing concern over the changing of the prime minister, asked the imam to give them guidance with regard to choosing a prime minister.

Here is the text of Imam Khomeyni's reply, according to the report: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. While expressing my thanks to you gentlemen, since I feel duty bound to express my views, I informed the gentlemen who sought my views including His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdavi and certain other gentlemen, that I find Engineer Musavi to be a religious and committed individual, and that, considering the existing highly complex situation in the country, I consider his government as a successful one. Therefore, I do not believe a change of government to be advisable at present. Furthermore, the right to choose belongs to the president and to the Majlis, and this right must be respected.

[Signed] Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni

Further Details
LD291640 Tehran IRNA in English 1613 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 29, IRNA — Members of Iran's Majlis (parliament) Sunday said Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi ought to be retained for a second term to keep in line with the wishes of the leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeyni.

In pre-agenda speeches Deputy Eshaq Gahanghardi, from Jiroft, expressed gratitude for cabinet's war policy and said Imam has voiced support for the person of the prime minister.

On Friday Imam Khomeyni sent Majlis deputies a message stating that it was not advisable to change the prime minister at the end of his first term in office. The letter was published Sunday.

The Jiroft deputy said the "interest of the system calls not for change but for the strengthening" of the cabinet. He said he had no doubt that President 'Ali Khamene'i, who is to introduce a prime minister to Majlis soon, "would insist on implementing the views of the Imam". President Khamene'i has not officially announced a candidate for the post and there has been extensive parliamentary discussions on his possible choices.

Rasht deputy, Mohammad Khazai'e expressed support for Musavi and said change in time of war was not wise. He added that the Majlis had a constitutional right to choose whoever it deemed necessary.

Later, the Majlis passed several clauses of a bill calling for the establishment of a Ministry of Health and Medical Education amalgamating various medical and professional establishments already working as independent government organs. The new ministry is to control all medical organizations, including private hospitals, and upgrade educational and training standards. It also calls for the creation of new medical universities to meet a growing need for doctors in the country.

Khomeyni Delivers Message on 'War Week'
LD272156 Tehran IRNA in English 1826 GMT 27 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 27, IRNA — Thousands of people listened to Imam Khomeyni's message to martyrs and war wounded people and their relatives at ceremonies in Behesht Zahra cemetery on the occasion of the 6th day of the war-week "the day of self-sacrifice" here Friday.

Also the air-support helicopters of the Ground Force showered flowers over tombs of martyrs of the Islamic revolution and the Iraqi imposed war in the cemetery. The ceremony was followed by a parade of Muslim combatants.

Khomeyni Appoints Karrubi Permanent Hajj Envoy
LD291817 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 29, IRNA — The leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, issued a decree here Sunday, appointing Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi his permanent Hajj representative and head of Iranian pilgrims to Mecca. In his decree the imam appreciated Karrubi for his services during this year's Hajj.

President Urges 'Upheaval' in College Curriculum
LD291923 Tehran IRNA in English 1857 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 29, IRNA — In a message Sunday to college students and members of the academic staff of colleges and universities in Iran, marking the inauguration of the 1985-86 academic year, President Khamene'i called on them to introduce the cultural values of the post-revolution into colleges and their curriculum with a view to creating universities geared to respond to the post-revolution needs of the country.

In his message read at Tehran University here Khamene'i said that the campus needs to experience an upheaval in every sphere of learning as well as in moral and ethical values so as to promise an early breakthrough in the educational and ethical values ruling in the colleges.

He said that a blinkered adoption of quasi-Western education values and criteria and an irresponsible imitation of the Western education systems had, for decades before the Islamic revolution, led colleges away from their true course and that therefore a basic responsibility before the educators is to try to transform colleges to places for true scholarship in keeping with the moral dictates of Islam.

Later inthe ceremony Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahfuzi a representative from Ayatollah Montazeri appreciated the efforts of the educators and especially of those who had decided to remain in the country and continue teaching despite better offers sent them by reputable colleges and universities in other parts of the world. He expressed hope that the academic staffs of universities would work harder to compensate for the limited number of college professors in Iran.

Besharati Meets With Khamene'i Before Gulf Tour
LD281540 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 28 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 28, IRNA — Iran's Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, prior to his leaving

for a tour of the Persian Gulf countries, met with President 'Ali Khamene'i here Saturday.

In the meeting Besharati briefed the president on recent developments in the region as well as friendly relations and cooperation between Iran and regional countries. Khamene'i called for strengthening relations with Muslim countries in the region.

President Visits War Wounded in Tehran Hospital

LD272149 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 27 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 27, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i visited a group of the war wounded in a south Tehran hospital Friday on the sixth day of the war week named "the day of self-sacrifice."

Khamene'i talked to the wounded soldiers and gifted them volumes of the holy Koran and bouquets of flowers.

The war wounded soldiers welcomed the president and called for the continuation of the war until the eventual defeat of the Iraqi government.

Majlis Speaker: Fighters 100 Kilometers From Baghdad

LD281614 Tehran IRNA in English 1522 GMT 28 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 28, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Thursday that the Islamic combatants of Iran are 100 kms from Baghdad and that an advance of 20 kms would put the Iraqi regime in grave danger.

Rafsanjani said the Muslim people of Iran are not going to retreat from the Ba'thist regime nor from the threats of East and West superpowers. Rafsanjani said Iran's war of attrition is gradually wearing down the Iraqi regime which, he said, is notorious for its savagery such as its chemical bombardment of Iranian cities.

Speaking to a group of Islamic combatants, Rafsanjani said the Zionist regime and persons like King Husayn of Jordan could not resist the cooperation of the Iran-Iraq nation after the victory of the Islamic Republic in the war. He added that international organizations through their silence vis-a-vis Iraqi crimes, are in fact supporting it.

Velayati Meets With FRG Official En Route to New York

LD280909 Tehran IRNA in English 0847 GMT 28 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 28, IRNA — Foreign Minsiter 'Ali Akbar Velayati discussed mutual economic and political ties with deputy foreign minister of Federal Republic of Germany in Frankfurt, Friday. Velayati had an stopover in West Germany on his way to New York to attend a meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

In his talks in Germany, Velayati explored avenues for mutual cooperation and ways to expand it and also discussed regional issues with the German official.

Confers With Japan's Abe

LD290743 Tehran IRNA in English 0737 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 29 IRNA — The Iranian foreign affairs minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, currently heading an Iranian delegation to the United Nations General Assembly, in a meeting with his Japanese counterpart Shintaro Abe in New York Saturday stressed the need for holding of joint meetings to further promote mutual relations.

The Japanese foreign minister referring to the last summer visit of the Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Japan, said that the visit had a significant effect on Irano-Japan ties.

On economic relations, Abe said that the volume of Japan's oil imports from Iran which had been previously decreased has recently been increased.

The Iranian foreign minister commenting on the recent statements of his Japanese counterpart on escalation of tension in the Persian Gulf area, said, "recent instigations of the Iraqi regime in the Persian Gulf, made with the support of certain countries of the region, are monitored by Iran and will receive due response."

Velayati repeated Iran's warning against any support for the Iraqi regime and reiterated efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran for creating stability and security in the region.

Both sides agreed that the first joint session of the foreign ministers be held in Tehran next year.

DPRK Official Arrives For Talks on Shipping Attacks

LD271946 Tehran IRNA in English 1828 GMT 27 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 27, IRNA — Deputy-commerce minister of Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) arrived in Tehran early Friday, at the head of a commercial delegation.

The delegation was welcomed by officials of the foreign and other ministries at Mehrabad Airport, here.

The visit here by the Korean official is said to be in relation with a missile attack by Iraqi fighter bombers against a Korean cargo ship in the Persian Gulf on September 19 which killed two of her crewmen.

Meets With Prime Minister

LD291929 Tehran IRNA in English 1907 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Excerpt] Tehran, Sept. 29 IRNA — Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade Li Song-rok met with Iranian Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here Sunday, and submitted messages from President Kim Il-song and Prime Minister Kang Song-san.

First Delegation Since Revolution Arrives in GDR

LD291807 Tehran IRNA in English 1723 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 29, IRNA — Iran's deputy agriculture minister, J. Rasulof heading a delegation to the German Democratic Republic (GDR), arrived in East Berlin Saturday and was welcomed by his GDR counterpart.

Discussed during the first round of talks with German officials was expansion of bilateral relations especially in agricultural fields.

The Iranian delegation is the first to visit German Democratic Republic since the victory of the Islamic revolution.

Transportation Delegation Leaves for Netherlands

LD300850 Tehran IRNA in English 0805 GMT 30 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 30, IRNA — The managing director of the ports and shipping company and deputy minister of roads and transportation, Ali Mahmudi, left Tehran for the Netherlands, Sunday for a four-day visit at the invitation of the officials of the Netherlands' Ministry of Transportation. Mahmudi is heading a delegation of managers and experts of Roads and Transportation Ministry.

During the visit, the Iranian delegation will inspect the Rotterdam port facilities and also will hold talks with the Dutch officials on ports and marine cooperation between the two countries.

Tehran Examines Nature of U.S.-Iraq Relations

LD271712 [Editorial Report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 0400 GMT on 27 September 1985 broadcasts a commentary within the "Review of Foreign Radios" program, entitled "The True Nature of Relations Between Iraq and America." The unidentified commentator starts with a history of U.S.-Iraqi relations, saying that after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, Iraq seemingly severed its relations with the United States, but in subsequent years Iraq did not take any steps against the Israeli regime. Iraq even refused to join the Steadfastness Front.

After the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, Iraq unmasked her real intentions: to crush the Islamic Revolution. After attacking Iran, America openly expressed her support for Iraq. After repeated Iraqi defeats at the hand of the Iranian fighters, America openly expressed her anxiety about the course of the events. Richard Murphy paid a visit to Iraq after visiting Israel and Egypt. Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz later met with President Reagan and talked about the expansion of relations between the two countries.

At the same time, Iraq started discussions with Egypt, and Tariq 'Aziz also visited there. In his visit with the Egyptian leaders, 'Aziz expressed Iraq's support for the position of Egypt vis-a-vis Israel and the Camp David accords. In return, Egypt promised support for Iraq in its war against Iran.

In the United Nations, Iraq abstained in the voting for the resolution proposed by Iran for the expulsion of Israel from that body, thus adopting a position closer to that of Egypt. In return, Israel promised that it would not attack the oil pipeline which Iraq planned to build through Jordan to the port of 'Aqaba. Although the United States claims that it does not sell weapons to Iran and Iraq, American weapons have been sent from Egypt to Iraq with U.S. consent. Egypt has also given a great deal of financial assistance to Iraq, together with a number of Persian Gulf countries, including Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Recently, the extent of American support for Iraq has become clearer, and last week an American commercial delegation visited Iraq.

Supporting the above assertions with quotations from unidentified foreign radios, the announcer concludes: "In fact, the above instances are examples of indirect assistance which has so far been given to the 'Aflaqi regime of Iraq by Washington. However, whether the normalization of relations between the governments of Reagan and Saddam will continue in the same pattern or not is something which only the future can tell. In general, the type of assistance given by Washington to Saddam's regime has varied according to the needs of the regime. During the past few years, with the ever-increasing weakness of the Zionist regime of Iraq in relation to the Islamic Republic of Iran, the form of the relations has become clearer because of the complete hostility of the American Government towards the Islamic revolution and the attempts made by that criminal superpower to destroy it. American imperialism regards the Islamic revolution in Iran as an enemy to her plundering interests in the region, and is frightened by the goals of Islam and the aspirations of the revolution. On the whole, true nature of relations between Iraq and America should be evaluated on two points: first, American worries concerning Iranian victory in the imposed war, which would also mean the victory of the Islamic revolution in the region; and second, attempts to coerce Iraq to join officially the Camp David group. While one of the intentions of Washington in establishing normal relations with the 'Aflaqi regime of Iraq is to prevent the defeat of that regime in the war with Iran, the other goal is to strengthen the reactionary group of pro-Camp David governments and recognize the existence of Israel through uniting a bankrupt person like Saddam with the group of other bankrupt individuals who are in the Camp David conspiracy."

The presenter cites another unidentified foreign radio: "According to *THE WALL STREET JOURNAL*, American officials are hoping that Iraq will join a new alliance of moderate Arabs that would finally initiate peace discussions with Israel — namely Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia." The announcer continues: "Following its policies for achieving its criminal goals in the region, Washington sent a trade delegation to Iraq last week. Although it has been announced that the visit of that delegation has taken place following the signing of new commercial agreements with Iraq, in view of Iraq's desperate economic situation it seems that the main reason for sending that trade delegation was to demonstrate the so-called stability of Saddam's regime and efforts to maintain it." The announcer says: "That delegation arrived in Iraq as the American ambassador formally started his work in Baghdad and as dozens of American spies attached to the office of the American military attache in Baghdad are following the developments."

The announcer concluded: "In any case, if, in the implementation of her dreams, America is planning to prevent the defeat of Iraq and to deliver blows at our country and at the Islamic ummah, it is only natural that, in defending the legitimate rights of the Muslim Iranian people and the independence and territorial integrity of this country, the Islamic revolution will act without the slightest hesitation and with all its power to stand up to any tyrannical, aggressive power. The Islamic revolution has been kept alive and steadfast as the result of the heroic defense of the people. God willing, as the result of the same heroic defense, it will remain vibrant and liberating."

IAEA Approves Resolution on Nuclear Station Attacks

LD280731 Tehran IRNA in English 0727 GMT 28 Sep 85

[Text] Belgrade, Sept. 28, IRNA — Iran's proposed resolution to the 29th annual session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) received unanimous approval of the participants, despite explicit opposition of the U.S. representative, Friday.

According to Iran's proposed resolution any military attack against nuclear installations is considered as infringement of the U.N. Charter, international laws, and the IAEA's regulations.

The resolution predicts that in case of military attacks against nuclear installations of each IAEA member countries in addition to other international bodies the IAEA should interfere and take measures according to the relevant resolutions and regulations. The resolution also specifies technical and scientific assistance to the country whose nuclear installations have been attacked.

The approval of Iran's proposed resolution will hinder resumption of attacks by the Baghdad and the Zionist regimes against nuclear installations of other countries. The Iranian delegation has previously distributed among the participants a documentary brochure, including 50 pictures, on Iraq's military attacks against Bushehr nuclear power station in south of Iran.

Meanwhile, the 29th session approved a resolution which called on the member states to stop any nuclear cooperation with the racist South African regime and halt purchase of uranium from this regime or transfer of nuclear technology and sciences to it.

The U.S. representative opposed this resolution which was proposed by Nigeria on behalf of African countries and in which the South African regime was urged to stop illegal sale of uranium gained from the occupied Namibian territory.

Central Bank Governor Reports on State of Economy

LD291906 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] Central Bank Governor Mohsen Nurbakhsh gave a report today at a news conference attended by local and foreign correspondents on the country's economic situation. Regarding the country's foreign exchange situation, he said: Our policy in the sphere of foreign exchange is based on maintaining a balance of payments equilibrium; maintaining a balance between foreign exchange receipts and payments is a legal obligation for us.

The Central Bank governor said: The Majlis has issued authorization for foreign exchange payments to the tune of 15 billion dollars for the year ending 20 March 1986. In addition, we are authorized to allocated up to 1.5 billion dollars for capital investment projects. Thus, our foreign exchange commitment for this [Iranian] year could rise to 16.5 billion dollars. Our correspondent reports that the Central Bank governor expressed confidence that the country's foreign exchange revenues for the year ending 20 March 1986 will be attainable, that they will be adequate to meet the country's projected foreign exchange requirements, and that the country's foreign exchange reserves will not be used for that purpose.

Nurbakhsh added: Our revenue situation is such that the level of our foreign exchange receipts matches the estimated level of foreign exchange commitments. Our ability to meet our foreign exchange commitments is absolutely reliable and credible. Noting that our oil revenues had amounted to more than 1.6 billion dollars last month, he said: Revenues for the month beginning 23 September and for the remaining months of this year are estimated at more than 1.4 billion dollars a month. Thus, our foreign exchange revenue continues its normal course. Bearing in mind the diversity of the ways in which oil can be exported, prospects for our oil revenues being cut off are nil.

The Central Bank Governor stressed: Thus far the normal trend on opening letters of credit for imports based upon legal authorizations have continued. Since the beginning of the current year up to the end of the month beginning 23 July, some 6 billion dollars' worth of letters of credit for import have been registered, and authorization has been issued for the same amount for imports. This is some 500 million dollars more than for the corresponding period last year. The letters of credit authorized in the first four months of the year amounted to 3.5 billion dollars, which is far more than the previous year and the years before the revolution.

At the news conference attended by local and foreign correspondents, the Central Bank governor denied officially that the opening of letters of credit had been halted, and said: During the current week and the previous week, a record level of letters of credit was opened. With regard to halting the sale of foreign exchange to those who want to go abroad, Nurbakhsh said: The annual total of foreign exchange sold to travellers abroad amounts to approximately 100 million dollars which represents an insignificant financial burden compared with the country's annual foreign exchange commitment of 16.5 billion dollars. Halting the sale of foreign exchange to travellers has taken place in view of its cultural dimension and the constraints envisaged in the budget regarding athe allocation of foreign exchange in the service sector. This is something that we must adhere to.

Continuing his report on the country's economic situation, the Central Bank governor said: The rial sector of the country's economy over the past year and during the current year has had a sound and useful trend. We have been able to control the money supply growth and to bring it down to less than 3.5 percent in the first four months of the current year. He added: The growth of private sector deposits in the banking system has had a very strong upward trend; with a 6.4 percent growth rate in the first four months of year, the public deposits in banks have topped the

6.2 billion rial mark, and the printing of new money has been avoided.

Giving the overall picture of the country's economy, the Central Bank governor said: Our country owes nothing to foreign countries; we will have no problems in meeting our commitments in the future as in the past. Despite all the propaganda, our foreign exchange revenues continue their normal course; we are able to fulfill our projected foreign exchange commitments. Our overall economic situation is a structured and stable one which can continue the war with substantial confidence and the necessary backing.

Replying to foreign correspondents, Nurbakhsh also denied any negotiations regarding obtaining loans from abroad and said: We have had no negotiations abroad about that matter; I do not believe we will need to do anything of that kind.

Iraqi Refugees Warn Gulf States Supporting Saddam

GF290822 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] On the last day of the imposed "war week" which has been named the day of "the Islamic revolution of the Iraqi nation," a number of mujahidin and refugees from Iraq now residing in Khuzestan held a magnificent and large-scale march yesterday afternoon in Ahvaz. The demonstrators carried portraits of the imam of the ummah Martyr Mohammad Baqer Sadr and the Iraqi combatant martyrs, and chanted slogans in favor of the Islamic revolution, condemning the crimes of the Zionist Iraqi regime, and expressing the need to fight against the regime ruling Iraq until this regime is overthrown.

At the end of the march, they gathered at the mourning site for the martyrdom of Imam Hoseyn in Ahvaz and listened to a speech delivered by a member of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] on the subject of the imposed war and the crimes committed by the Zionist Iraqi regime in the imposed war. The speaker referred to the latest plot by the regime ruling Iraq in creating unrest and violence in the waters of the Persian Gulf. He said that the Zionist regime of Iraq, through such adventurism, is trying to save itself from the predicament created on the battlefronts by the Islamic combatants. However, such brutal actions will not have the slightest effect on the Islamic faith of the Islamic soldiers, just as it has had no effect on the iron-clad and inviolate determination of the Islamic combatants. They will continue to fight with all their might until the fall of the regime ruling Iraq. He also warned the reactionary elements in the region who support Saddam, saying that the fall of Saddam was certain and that such support will have no effect.

At the conclusion of the demonstration, a six-article resolution was read. The resolution stressed the fact that the Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries will continue their fierce battles shoulder-to-shoulder with the Islamic combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran until the final victory and the downfall of Saddam. The resolution added: We consider Imam Khomeyni as the leader of the Islamic world, and we consider SAIRI to be the only legal representative of the people of Iraq.

The resolution in another part issued a warning to the reactionary regimes in the region which support Saddam. It also supported the just fight of the Muslim people of Iraq and condemned the crimes of the regime ruling Iraq committed against the Iraqi Kurd brothers.

Further Details

GF291625 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 29 Sep 85

[From the "Voice of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq" program]

[Text] In response to a call by the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], Iraqi Muslims held a march which started from one of Tehran's square in commemoration of the day of the Islamic revolution in Iran and to protest the Ba'thist aggression which has entered its sixth year.

The participants condemned the Saddam regime's crimes against the Muslim Iraqi people and their struggling sons. Our Iraqi brothers affirmed the need to continue their struggle until an Islamic state is established in Iraq. They held placards saying "There is no God but God," "Saddam is God's enemy," "We vow by the blood of Al-Sadr that we will continue war until victory," and "Our struggle is that of Husayn and our leader is Khomeyni."

They also displayed placards with English slogans outside the premises of the UN development organization. There they read out the memorandum of the SAIRI president, Mahmud al-Hashimi, which is addressed to the United Nations and international human rights organizations.

Army, Gendarmerie Commanders on SAIRI Activities

LD281357 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 28 Sep 85

[From the "Islamic Revolution Guards Corps" program]

[Text] Today is the sixth day of War Week, named the Day of Islamic Revolution of the Iraqi People. On this occasion, we interviewed Colonel Sayyad-Shirazi, the honorable commander of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Colonel Sohrabi, the esteemed commander of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on activities of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] and the participation of the Iraqi combative mujahidin in the war against the Zionist regime ruling over Iraq. We draw your attention to these interviews.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] We have recently witnessed greater dynamism among the SAIRI forces. Would you please explain your cooperation with these forces?

[Sayyad-Shirazi] The intensification of activities of the Iraqi mujahidin we are now witnessing signifies the victory of the combatants of Islam. The Iraqi mujahidin needed help in strengthening their efforts to weaken the Ba'thist-Zionst regime. Now they have become stronger and have learned combat tech-

niques alongside the warriors of Islam in our country and among our Armed Forces. Therefore, we can see how these mujahidin have high morale, and are better formed, consolidated, and more active. We hope — God willing — that their struggle will spread throughout the entire nation of Iraq so that they alone will overthrow the Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

[Unidentified correspondent] In view of the recent blows inflicted on the enemy, and their forces being on a continuous state of alert, can the Iraqi people themselves play a role in this connection?

[Sohrabi] The recent operations of the warriors of Islam were carried out with the cooperation of a considerable number of selfless Iraqi mujahidin. This is one of the new manifestations of the Islamic movement and our sacred defense. The people of Iraq despise this oppressive, suppressive and dictatorial regime, and despite this regime's very heavy pressure on the people's shoulders, the people continue to inform the world of their desire for Islam and justice. We hope — God willing — the ground will be prepared for the final victory of the combatants of Islam. [End recording]

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,241

LD271803 Tehran IRNA in English 1751 GMT 27 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 27, IRNA — An enemy patrol group was forced to flee in the Seyyed Khan area in the northwestern fronts and the Iraqi troops suffered losses and casualties as the artillery units of the Muslim combatants of Iran pounded their positions on Thursday, silencing enemy fire.

The Iranian artillery fire also disrupted the activities of the enemy, halting enemy engineering operations, according to the latest military Communique Number 2241 issued here Friday. About 30 light and heavy vehicles, two tanks and armoured personnel carriers as well as two engineering vehicles of the enemy were destroyed Thursday as a result of the Iranian artillery fire.

In the western fronts, the aggressor enemy was subjected to sporadic artillery fire of the Iranian forces which set ablaze at least 12 enemy artillery emplacements and observation posts, three munitions depots and four vehicles. In the western fronts, the combatants of Islam brought the enemy's motorized movements under their control and forced an Iraqi patrol group to flee in the operational area of Sumar, while inflicting considerable losses and casualties on them.

The Iraqi enemy also suffered casualties and losses when the Gendermerie forces across the Arvand River pounded their positions and fortifications, disrupting their engineering activities.

An enemy patrol unit was spotted by the unites of the ground forces in the operational area of Nahr-Anbar on Thursday and came under the timely fire of the Iranian Muslim combatants, which killed or wounded some of them and forced the rest to flee.

The city of Abadan was the target of the enemy's artillery fire Thursday which damaged some houses and set fire to parts of the city.

The Iraqi aerial aggressions over the war fronts were repelled by the heavy fire of the Iranian air defense units, the communique concluded.

Communique No 2,242

LD281751 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 28 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 28, IRNA — The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces in its Communique Number 2242 published here Saturday reported that Iran's Muslim combatants opened fire on Iraqi positions in western fronts over the past 24 hours, killing or wounding more than 24 Iraqi troops and destroying over 20 bunkers, two munitions depots and six vehicles of the enemy.

The command added that Iranian Muslim fighters subjected Iraqi positions in northwestern fronts to their heavy fire during the past 24 hours, killing or wounding a number of Iraqi troops and devastating 10 heavy and some light vehicles as well as a number of bunkers of Iraqi forces.

Meanwhile, the command said, Iranian ground-to-air fire thwarted Iraqi war planes violating the air space of Qader-operational region in the said period.

The communique said that Iranian forces exchanged artillery fire with Iraqi troops in southern fronts over the past 24 hours, forcing two Iraqi patrol units attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in the regions of Yebis and Chananeh to flee.

Two Iraqi boats which were trying to approach Iranian positions in the region of Jofeyr were forced to flee when they met with Iranian artillery fire, the communique said.

Iran's Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions across the Arvand River, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and silencing enemy artillery over the past 24 hours, the communique said.

Iraq's long-range artillery hit the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr in Khuzestan Province over the past 24 hours, damaging some houses in the two cities, the communique concluded.

Iraqi Military Traffic Halted

LD281925 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 28 Sep 85

[Excerpt] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Sept. 28, IRNA — Iraqi military traffic on Al-Faw-Al-Basra road was halted by Muslim combatants fire, Friday.

In this operation, which continued till Saturday, a large ammunition depot was destroyed engulfing it in flames which was observed for several hours from the east bank of the Arvand River.

Aircraft Downed Over Iraq

LD291101 Tehran IRNA in English 1049 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 29, IRNA — Two Iranian jetfighters bombed Harethiah power station, 20 km northwest of the Iraqi port city of Al-Basra, causing a big fire and explosion, Sunday. The Harethiah power plant, producing 800 megawatt electricity, provides a major area in southern Iraq with electricity.

After the successful operation, pilot and co-pilot of one of the aircraft which was affected by technical deficiencies, bailed out of the aircraft and landed inside Iraqi territory.

Iran's border patrols have reported the landing of the Iranian pilots inside Iraq near Iran-Iraq frontier. Therefore, the Iraqi Government is responsible for safety of the crew.

Communique No 2,243

LD291710 Tehran IRNA in English 1656 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 29, IRNA — Iran's jet fighters bombarded Iraq's Harethiah power installations in north of Al-Basra at 06:42 hours (03:12 GMT) Sunday, inflicting considerable damage on the power station, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces reported here Sunday.

Announcing this in its Communique Number 2243, the Command added that Iranian Muslim combatants shelled Iraqi positions and fortifications in northwestern fronts ranging from Piranshahr in West Azarbayjan Province to Marivan in Kordestan Province over the past 24 hours inflicting heavy casualties and damage.

One of the Iranian jet fighters on its way back developed technical difficulties and crashed inside Iraqi territory. Its pilots were captured by Iraqi troops, the Command said, adding that the entire responsibility for the pilots' safety rests with the Iraqi regime.

In artillery battle which was more intense in Haj 'Umran operational region an enemy tank was destroyed and two munitions depots of Iraqi forces was set ablaze, the command said.

The communique said that an Iranian patrol unit in a penetration operation seized a large number of weapons and vehicles together with a great deal of ammunition of Iraqi troops in one of the operational regions.

A reinforced Iraqi patrol unit attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Seyyed Khan operational region at 0400 hours (12:30 GMT) Friday, was fired on, forcing the enemy to flee, the command said.

The Command added that on Monday [as received] all air violations of Iraqi war planes in northwestern fronts were repelled by Iranian ground-to-air fire.

More than 12 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded and at least 12 bunkers and observation posts as well as a munitions depot of the enemy were destroyed during the artillery battle in border frontlines of Bakhtaran and Ilam Provinces over the past 24 hours, the communique said.

The Communique added that Qasr-e Shirin was the scene of heavier artillery duel in western frontlines on Saturday.

In southern fronts, Iraqi armoured units and vehicle columns were subjected to heavy artillery over the past 24 hours during which a part of Iraqi positions across the Arvand River were set ablaze and one enemy jeep carrying 106 mm gun was destroyed by Iran's Gendarmerie forces.

The city of Abadan was the target of enemy's artillery fire over the past 24 hours causing damage to parts of the city, the communique said.

Meanwhile, on the eve of martyrdom anniversary of four top commanders and officers of Iran's Armed Forces who were martyred in an air crash on September 30th 1981, the Joint Staff Command expressed its deep sorrow and condolences to the Iranian nation.

More Theologians Needed at Fronts

LD280917 Tehran IRNA in English 0845 GMT 28 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept, 28, IRNA — Over 22,000 students of Qom School of Theology have been dispatched to the fronts of the Iraqi- imposed war during the past three years, 775 of whom have been martyred.

An official at the headquarters to dispatch theologians to warfronts announcing this on Friday said that every month about 500 students of Qom School of Theology are dispatched to battlefields. But, he added, it was not sufficient and noted that some 1500 theologians were needed in the fronts every month.

Bushehr Youth Depart for Fronts

GF291551 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] In continuation of the departure of the enthusiastic and revolutionary youths of Bushehr to the scene of battle between right and wrong, a battalion of noble members of the mobilization of the Islamic Revolution Guards' Corps and specialists from the districts of Bushehr, Dashtestan, Ganaveh, Kangan, Dayyer, Dasht, and Tangestan, this afternoon left for the fronts of light versus wrong in order to assist the able combatants of Islam.

Radio Iran: Regime Moving Oil Loading Equipment

GF271620 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 27 Sep 85

[Text] Arab diplomats in the region have not hesitated to report that Iraq, by continuing its attacks, will prevent repairs and reconstruction of oil installations at Khark Island. Under such circumstances, the Tehran regime is trying to move floating oil loading equipment from Khark Island to a point near Ganaveh port.

An Iraqi official has warned that if any oil tanker approaches these floating installations, it will be destroyed. According to this official, Iraq is determined to completely cut off Iranian oil exports and that Iraq will do all in its power to achieve this goal.

Radio Iran: Oil Exports Delayed by 20 Days

GF271924 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 27 Sep 85

[Text] According to reports which were confirmed by oil sources, yesterday the authorities of the Iranian Government informed all its customers that all loading of oil from Khark Island will be delayed for 20 days, so that during this period, as an emergency measure, they will be able to repair the oil installations at Khark Island.

Among the customers of Iranian oil, the names of the Japanese Sibe Mitsue Oil Company, Royal Dutch Shell, and Fibre Solomon were mentioned. Some oil circles have said that the Islamic Republic's oil exports have completely stopped.

Further Reportage on Afghan Rebel Successes

Ambush Near Gilan

LD271809 Tehran IRNA in English 1747 GMT 27 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 27, IRNA — Afghan Muslim mujahidin ambushed a military column near the historic town of Gilan, recently, killing 16 joint Soviet-Karmal troops on 6th September. According to an Afghan press agency report three military trucks were also set ablaze in the attack.

The military column was enroute to Kandahar from Kabul when it came under mujahidin attack midway to the town of Gilan. The mujahidin staged a tactical retreat after the arrival of Soviet planes and helicopter gunships, it said. Three mujahidin members were martyred and 11 others wounded in the fighting, the agency added.

Missile Attack on Airport

LD291639 Tehran IRNA in English 1618 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 29, IRNA — Afghan Muslim revolutionaries launched a missile attack on Acran airport near Kabul during the past few days, destroying nine planes parked on the tarmac. According to eye-witnesses the resulting fire spread to runway and nearby buildings, causing heavy losses and halting air traffic at the airport.

Badghis Province Clash

GF291950 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries last week attacked Soviet forces and forces of the ruling regime in Afghanistan and killed 28 members of those forces in Badghis Province in northwest Afghanistan. The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries also captured 19 members of the above-mentioned forces and seized several weapons and ammunition.